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Iraq opposed to 'current formula' of oil sale
BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Friday it would not accept in its current form U.N. Security Council Resolution 986, which allows quarterly Iraqi oil sales of up to \$1 billion to buy food and medicine. Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra, however, did not state clearly whether Baghdad would accept a modified version of the resolution. "In its current formula, Resolution 986 is stillborn, it aims at exploiting the conditions created by the blockade in order to establish a geographical and political situation that will destroy Iraq's unity," Al Thawra said. "This is what our wise leadership has been opposing by all means, with the people's support," it said. The Security Council on Wednesday renewed the five-year-old sanctions against Iraq, imposed after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait. Egypt on Thursday called for "new discussions" between the United Nations and Iraq over Resolution 986 in order to reach an accord acceptable to both sides for its implementation.

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U.S. Senate approves Palestinian aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. senate has given final congressional approval to a bill resuming U.S. aid to Palestinians through Dec. 31. Senate delays in approving the legislation led to a temporary cessation of activities at the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Washington office last week. Approval by voice vote sent the bill to President Bill Clinton. New legislation would be required for a further extension into next year. Aid to the Palestinians enjoys bipartisan support. But Senate majority leader Bob Dole and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms allowed the old authorization to expire in a dispute with the Clinton administration over reorganising the state Department and other agencies that handle foreign issues. The State Department had complained that the Senate Republicans' tactics of Mr. Dole and Mr. Helms amounted to holding the Middle East peace process hostage to a flap over reducing the foreign affairs bureaucracy. The United States is committed to providing \$500 million in assistance to the Palestinians over five years. The administration considers the aid to be a critical element of the Middle East peace negotiations.

Settlers oppose seizing of land

HALHOUL, occupied West Bank (R) — A small group of Jewish settlers joined Palestinian landowners on Friday to protest against Israeli government plans to destroy vineyards to build a road for Israelis in the West Bank, witnesses said. About 25 settlers from Kiryat Arba, Hebron and Efrat joined a similar number of Palestinian landowners from the southern West Bank town of Halhoul in a rare joint sit-down protest. Soldiers looked on but did not intervene. "We have a rabbinical opinion... that prohibits Jews from taking or stealing or destroying the lands of non-Jews," said Kiryat Arba settler David Ramati.

EU refuses to budge on Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — The European Union (EU) is refusing to budge on its refusal to allow Libya to take part in the European-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona later this month, an Egyptian official said Friday after a visit to Paris. "The European Union is insisting that countries taking part in the meeting have cooperation links with it, Libya has no such ties," Rifaat Ghoneim, foreign ministry official for European affairs, told journalists here.

Bahraini opposition apologises to emir

MANAMA (R) — Bahraini newspapers said on Friday five opposition leaders had apologised to Emir Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa over their anti-government protests. "We express our deep regret with regard to our behaviour and acts which led to troubles in the country," the Shiite Muslim activists said in a letter to the emir. "We will work to restore calm, end violence and restore normal life... we make this initiative without any demand or conditions."

Bonn puts off Islamic conference

BONN (R) — Germany on Friday put off an Islamic conference planned for next week after parliament unexpectedly passed a vote saying Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati should be excluded. Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said. Parliament voted to exclude Mr. Velayati because Tehran had welcomed the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

16 held in Lebanon for 'collaboration'

BEIRUT (AP) — Sixteen people have been arrested on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, a charge punishable by death in this country which is technically still at war with the Jewish state. Judge Nassir Iahoud, the government's magistrate at the military tribunal, ordered the suspects placed in custody pending the completion of interrogation. The identities of most detainees were not disclosed. But they were all believed to be Lebanese. They are suspected of "aiding the enemy" — "aiding contacts with Israelis and passing on military information. Some also are suspected of smuggling drugs to Israel or involvement in trade deals which violate the Arab boycott rules."

Indian panel rejects Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's autonomous Election Commission on Friday turned down a federal government proposal to hold elections in Kashmir by the middle of next month. Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan said the commission "unanimously rejected" the proposal by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as the situation was "not consistent with the conduct of a fair and free election in Kashmir."

Government to comply with King's directives through constitutional process — prime minister

Aim is to protect democracy from excesses and executive authority will work closely with legislature on measures, Sharif Zeid says after HM's hard-hitting comments on the media and professional associations

By P.V. Vivekanand and Natasha Bukhari

AMMAN — The prime minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, said Friday that his government would adopt necessary measures to protect Jordan's national unity and cohesiveness but that any step in this regard would be taken in accordance with the country's constitutional process. "His Majesty King Hussein issued specific directives (in his speech to senior army and security officers Thursday) which the government will comply with," Sharif Zeid told the Jordan Times. "However, the government will not issue any emergency or temporary laws to achieve His Majesty's objectives," the prime minister added. "Any change in laws will be effected only in cooperation with Parliament."

'Democracy does not mean crossing the red lines, destroying national unity, destroying what is worth something, and under-estimating the achievements of the country'



See full text of the King's address on page 7

Without naming the publication, the King referred to a lead story that appeared in last week's issue of Al Sabeel, a mouthpiece of the Islamist movement, that reported the assassination of Mr. Rabin with the headline "One Less Murderer."

The King said: "In my view and in the view of honourable people, murderers have increased by one" rather than the other way around. "It is high time to say that all terrorists, regardless of their nationality and convictions, are one category, with no difference at all between them," said the King. "They are enemies of life, of morals, stability, security and peace."

(Continued on page 2)

Parliament fully backs King's views and pledges action

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament on Friday issued a statement voicing support for His Majesty King Hussein and expressing concern over issues raised by the King a day earlier in a speech delivered before senior army officers at Al Hussein Medical Centre. The statement, which was carried by the Jordan news agency, Petra, and read by House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour on Jordan Television, said the Lower House shares with the King and the Jordanian people their concern over excesses by some parties over democratic values and national unity. The statement, which was issued after a meeting of the House Executive Council, representatives of major parliamentary blocs and chairpersons of all House committees, said democracy

(Continued on page 7)

Expected amendments to Press and Publications Law target 'yellow press'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The impending changes that the government is expected to introduce to the Press and Publications Law will enable the executive authority to take stronger measures against publications which His Majesty King Hussein accused Thursday of working to harm the country and undermine its stability. The reported amendments, which are expected to be presented to Parliament when it reconvenes in December, would empower the government with the authority to close down temporarily or permanently newspapers that violate the law or step on the "red lines" which the Constitution and the National Charter have drawn. The changes would be the first to be introduced to the Press and Publications Law since it was endorsed by the 11th Parliament in 1993. Observers believe that the government will have no trouble in passing the

amendments through the Lower House of Parliament where a majority supports the government's policies. The current law metes out mostly financial punishment to newspapers and journalists who violate its provisions. But it also allows for the trial of those who commit certain types of violations such as attacking the security forces or the defamation of the royal family under the penalty code which imposes punishment that could include imprisonment.

"Controls and curbs must be introduced and (punishment) for those who violate public ethics and morals (in the press) should be reconsidered," said the King in his address to senior military and security officials.

"It seems that our hopes were higher than our reality when we abolished limits and made the strongest punishment for any wrongdoer a mere JD 1000," said the King in his address.

(Continued on page 2)

Experts agree on need to curb excessive powers of associations, but split on means

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the government appears determined to move towards changing the laws governing the work of professional associations in a bid to curb the unions' powers and domination over their members' political affiliations, there are divisions among supporters of the move on how any new legislation might be constructed. While some analysts believe that membership in professional associations should remain mandatory, others insist on following the government's footsteps in making the membership voluntary as a necessary measure to separate politics from professional politics. Proponents of the latter school of thought believe that associations have for long abused their power and that the only means of promoting and protecting democracy and pluralism in the country is by making membership voluntary. "Members have become slaves for their associations," says Dr. Zeid Hamzeh, a former minister of health. "Associations are controlling their members, speaking on their behalf, and imposing their own political ideas on

members who are otherwise afraid to speak out so as not to lose their jobs."

Senator Taher Hikmat, who is a former minister of justice, says membership should remain as it is, mandatory, but politics should be separated from professional politics. Dr. Zeid Hamzeh insists that forcing individuals to belong to associations gives unions excessive powers.

Moreover, "it is unconstitutional and in contradiction with the basic principles of human rights," Dr. Hamzeh maintains. "The executive boards of professional unions, which in most cases did not win by majority vote, would be entitled to excessive powers if membership remained obligatory," he says. "They have been and will still be abusing these powers if the situation did not change."

Membership in professional unions, unlike trade unions, has been always mandatory since their establishment in the 1950s. The need to change it to a voluntarily status was deemed necessary by the government recently, especially when professional associations started taking severe measures against their members if they "normalised" relations with Israel or

medical association, the executive councils, which for the most part are against normalising relations with Israel, are not representative of the majority of members. Only 10 per cent of those who have the right to vote actually voted in the recent medical association elections, he says. "I believe it is the same case in the engineers association."

Senator Hikmat agrees and insists that "unions should not be used as a tool for political action... These practices are a sharp violation of public freedoms."

On the other hand Leith Shubellat, president of the engineers association, dismisses all arguments that imply that the association forces its members to adhere to certain political ideas or that it is involved in politics.

"We are not political. We are talking about current issues that are of interest to every individual in this country," he says. But what is happening is that "the state is changing our terms of reference and is telling our people that we are rewriting history."

Lower House of Parliament Deputy Bassam Haddadin said he believes that pro-

(Continued on page 2)

Peres and Arafat may meet Sunday

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat may meet with Israel's acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres in Cairo on Sunday, Mr. Arafat's spokesman said Friday. "It's not definite, but it's possible," spokesman Marwan Kanafani said, when asked about a meeting. "For the moment, it's not confirmed."

It would be the first time Mr. Peres met Mr. Arafat since he became Israel's new leader after the Nov. 4 assassination of his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish fanatic. Mr. Arafat is to chair a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee in the Egyptian capital on Sunday. Mr. Peres assured the Palestinian leader by telephone on Wednesday that Israel's troop redeployment outside six West Bank towns, to be completed by the end of the year, would go ahead as planned despite Mr. Rabin's murder. An initial contingent of 1,000 Palestinian policemen is to arrive Monday in Jenin.

Rifkind reaffirms support for peace

AMMAN (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on Friday stressed his country's support for the Middle East peace process and outlined the importance of pursuing efforts to enhance and build regional peace and stability. Speaking to reporters at the British ambassador's residence, Mr. Rifkind praised Jordan's leading role in establishing peace in the region and in turning this peace into reality. He said he discussed with His Majesty King Hussein the situation in Iraq, Jordanian-British relations and the economic and commercial ties between Jordan and Europe, in addition to Jordan's participation in this month's Barcelona conference.

Mr. Rifkind also said U.N. sanctions on Iraq could be lifted if the country agreed to have been caught off its

Sixth suspect held in Rabin murder

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A court remanded a sixth suspected Jewish plotter in Yitzhak Rabin's murder on Friday as supporters of an extremist rabbi planned to defy a police ban and rally on the day of the prime minister's memorial.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said that one man was arrested Thursday for condoning Mr. Rabin's assassination on television. The man, identified as 44-year-old David Balahan, was remanded for seven days in a magistrate's court near Tel Aviv. Police Minister Moshe Shahal insisted the murder was the work of a Jewish terror group which had tried before to kill the premier and blow up his peace accords with the Palestinians. "The inquiry taking place has revealed at least three attempts to assassinate Rabin since the launch of Palestinian autonomy in May 1994," he told journalists. "All I can say is that the assassin, Yigal Amir, is not the only one implicated in these attempts," Mr. Shahal said. But the Shin Bet intelligence service, under attack for having been caught off its

guard, has voiced doubts on the conspiracy theory first raised by Mr. Shahal the previous day. A senior official told Israel Radio that so far the police investigation had only proved the involvement of two people: Amir, 27, and his brother Hagal who confessed to preparing the lethal dum-dum bullets used.

Yigal Amir has said killing Mr. Rabin was his "sacred duty" but told a court on Monday he acted alone. The latest suspect to be detained, 23-year-old Michael Epstein, was remanded for five days on suspicion of conspiracy and knowing in advance of the assassination last Saturday at a Tel Aviv peace rally. A total of six people are in custody for the murder including the assassin, who has been linked to Eyal, an offshoot of the outlawed Kach movement headed by the slain Rabbi Meir Kahane. The six suspects now in custody include the two Amir brothers, Eyal leader Avishav Raviv, Dror Adani, Ohad Skornick and Epstein. Supporters of the extremist rabbi have called for a memorial service on the same day as a Tel Aviv rally for Rabin.

An advertisement in the newspaper Jerusalem Post called Friday for services at a yeshiva, or religious seminary, and at Kahane's grave on the Mount of Olives in Arah East Jerusalem on Sunday.

A police spokesman has warned of stern action to prevent such a demonstration of support for the outlawed group. But a yeshiva spokesman said the service would still go ahead. "Police would have to be crazy to break up our memorial. It's not politics or anything," he said. The leader of Kach, which was hanged in the wake of the Hebron mosque massacre of at least 30 Muslim worshippers last year by a member of the group, was killed by an Egyptian in New York on Nov. 5, 1990. The fifth anniversary of the death of Kahane is being commemorated under the Jewish calendar. Hundreds of thousands of people are expected for Sunday's Tel Aviv memorial at the site where Mr. Rabin was murdered — Kings of Israel Square, which is to be renamed after the prime minister.

mission of inquiry into the assassination held its first meeting to discuss the procedure for hearing testimony, where it would hold future sessions and other technical issues. It will start to question witnesses next week, mostly behind closed doors. A Shin Bet internal investigation has so far led to one senior-level resignation and the suspension of three other officials for law security at the Tel Aviv rally. A group of Israelis waving signs saying "Peres you are not alone" demonstrated outside the home of acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Friday, vowing not to abandon the new leader. After Mr. Rabin was assassinated, his widow, Leah, recalled the weekly heckling outside their house by opponents of Mr. Rabin's policy of peace with the Palestinians. "Where were you then?" she asked mourners on the street outside their Tel Aviv home. "Every Friday afternoon a peace demonstration is going to stand in front of the home of Prime Minister Peres and say 'Shimon, you are not

(Continued on page 2)

Sultan Qaboos aims at tribal support with general pardon

MUSCAT (AFP) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman, who is set to release hundreds of militants at the end of the month, is seeking to bolster his support from the country's tribes, diplomats said.

"Qaboos decided to release those fundamentalists to hold out his hand to the tribes, especially in the south, who have got a certain political influence and power," a Western diplomat said here.

"These Omanis, most of them students and intellectuals, come from all social classes throughout the country," an Arab diplomat added.

"Qaboos needs the support of around 200 tribes scattered throughout the country," all the more so because Oman has for the last year taken part in direct talks with Israel, he added.

Oman and Qatar are the only Gulf Arab states to have taken concrete steps towards rapprochement with the Jewish state.

Authorities said on Sunday that the Sultan had declared a general amnesty for all prisoners implicated in outlawed activities and organisations and that they would be freed by the end of November.

The state security court in November last year handed

down prison terms to an unspecified number of militants convicted of sedition, undermining social unity, and exploiting the Muslim religion for destructive purposes.

Another diplomat said around 200 to 600 Omanis, who were arrested in three waves between May and August 1994 and who were mainly from the country's south, benefited from this unprecedented amnesty.

"We cannot call them Islamists. They are puritans who are fighting against what they call corruption and misuse of authority," the diplomat said.

"They do not represent any major threat for the regime," he added. "They don't have the means of action to threaten the authorities." That's why they will be released. There's no risk," he said.

Following the arrests, the Omani authorities accused foreign parties of having financed the militant groups, the first ever dismantled in Oman.

The London-based human rights organisation, Amnesty International, said in a recent report that the fundamentalists had been charged with creating an illegal organisation and distributing pam-



Sultan Qaboos

phlets denouncing Oman for staging a conference that Israel attended.

An Omani official confirmed Amnesty reports that those arrested included a former Omani ambassador to the United States, senior officials from the agriculture and commerce ministries and executives of the state oil firm.

The official who asked not to be named added that the general amnesty was perceived by several Omanis as the "prelude to a real change at all levels as part of efforts to bolster national unity."

Meanwhile, Western diplomats here said they expected cabinet changes after festivities for national day on Nov. 18, although key posts would probably not change hands.

Oman, a country of 500,000 people, is an absolute monarchy, although in late 1991 a consultative assembly was formed, with its 59 members appointed by the Sultan from among representatives of Oman's 59 provinces.

Sixth suspect

(Continued from page 1)

alone," said Erez Friedman, a parliamentary assistant to a member of Mr. Peres's Labour Party.

"We won't let the rightist demonstrators call you a traitor or a killer," he said, citing some of the accusations flung at Mr. Rabin for months before his death.

"We made that mistake once. Leah Rabin said 'where were you?' We heard what she said. We take the criticism and from now on we promise we will be here. We will not make the same mistake again," Mr. Friedman added.

Thousands of people continue to gather at Rabin's grave in the Mount Herzl military cemetery, still numb with grief and shock after his assassination.

"What he did not know, or would not believe, was that terror and murder were not the exclusive domain of the Palestinians," wrote the editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem Report, Hersh Goodman.

Even political barriers seem to have been swept aside as if by magic.

Posters and bumper stickers calling Mr. Rabin a traitor or assassin have disappeared, replaced with ones bidding "Goodbye, friend" and "Forgive us for not backing you."

"The State of Israel will never be the same," said Shimon Sheves, the former head of Mr. Rabin's office, and a close friend.

The assassination has also redrawn the political map of Israel, at least temporarily.

in Tel Aviv on Nov. 4 and warned that a similar atmosphere was clouding Jordan.

"I remind my brothers, and my brother the prime minister, that if such an atmosphere led to what happened there (in Israel), we live amid the same atmosphere here," said the King.

The King also lashed out at a "neighbouring Arab country" — thought to be Syria — whose "vice-president" had sent a message to the Jordanian prime minister saying that "you were my friend, but it's not honourable to shake the hand that shook Rabin's hand."

One official described the approach of the tabloids as "verbal violence which could turn into physical violence."

According to a government source, "one way to counter that would be to bring down the threshold of punishment for violators of the law." One such measure could be a dramatic increase in fines imposed on those who are convicted of violating the Press and Publications Law (see stories below).

The King's hard-hitting speech obviously stemmed from frustration over what many government officials describe as the immaturity of the local media and professional associations to recognise the inevitability of accepting the course of history and realities on the ground.

"It seems that our hopes were not (compatible) with the size of reality when we lifted all restrictions," said the King, referring to the maximum penalty of JD 1,000 for violations of the Press and Publications Law.

The King referred to the atmosphere of extremist incitement in Israel that is widely seen as mainly responsible for the assassination of Mr. Rabin by a Jewish fanatic at a peace rally

"Life and death are in the hands of God and we do not fear criticism when we do justice," said the King. "I would always be, to the last moment of my life, there for you, from you and with you, to satisfy you with my conscience and work for God's will."

Euro-Arab forum calls for basic change in approach to education

From Lola Keilani in the Hague

A GATHERING of European and Arab experts on education is calling on Middle Eastern countries to upgrade their educational systems and on the European Union (EU) to support the educational reform programmes in the region on a priority basis, given the fast-moving changes in the world economic climate towards open market economies that require a qualitative change of education and vocational training.

The recommendations, adopted at the conclusion of the sixth dialogue forum organised by the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation in the Hague, will be submitted to the Barcelona conference of "Euro-Mediterranean partnership" grouping the 15 EU member states and 13 non-EU Mediterranean countries, including Jordan, this month.

The Hague forum was titled "The Quality of Education — Cooperation in Exchange." Between Europe and the Middle East, and was sponsored by the Commission of the European Union, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Cultural Foundation.

The recommendations call for higher priority for basic education, continued updating of basic education curricula and teaching methods and material, introducing effective research and analysis methods, upgrading training for teachers, developing education management information systems, establishing monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of education and introducing policy

changes in state approaches to education.

They call on the European Union to fund Euro-Arab workshops, encourage studies of the regulatory and legislative framework and to transfer of know-how.

It also recommended that special "Euro-Arab" centres be set up in the Middle East for training of teachers and reforming the approach to education.

The dialogue forum, focusing on what it called a "new globalisation strategy," noted that the international community has to come terms with the emerging world trend towards accepting the new strategy.

"With stability in the Middle East and the trend towards achieving a free Euro-Mediterranean trade area by the year 2010, working among European and Arab industries should be encouraged in hosting selected trainers and trainees for short programmes in European industries," the recommendations said.

Representing Jordan at the meeting were Thabet Taber, a former minister of energy and mineral resources, Munther Masri, president of the National Centre for Human Resources, Inam Al Mufti, president of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Victor Billeh, an advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a senior official of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Dr. Billeh noted that Jordan has managed to address the problem of illiteracy

well in comparison with other Arab countries through focused efforts, but that there was a need to concentrate more on means to meet the special needs of children who are talented but suffer from learning difficulties.

Jordan has two institutions to deal with the problems, he noted, adding that "to make their job easier in identifying children with learning difficulties, parents should be made aware and informed how to detect a child with special needs."

Numbers revealed at the forum were very alarming, participants noted.

For instance, statistics indicate that if no effective action is taken, the number of illiterates in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region would rise to 66 million, with adult women accounting for 50 per cent of the figure.

One of the hopes of the forum is that Arab governments would adopt its recommendations and act swiftly to increase the exchange of educational information among themselves and with Europe.

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Dr. Billeh noted that Jordan has managed to address the problem of illiteracy

well in comparison with other Arab countries through focused efforts, but that there was a need to concentrate more on means to meet the special needs of children who are talented but suffer from learning difficulties.

Jordan has two institutions to deal with the problems, he noted, adding that "to make their job easier in identifying children with learning difficulties, parents should be made aware and informed how to detect a child with special needs."

Numbers revealed at the forum were very alarming, participants noted.

Government to comply with King's directives

(Continued from page 1)

In an implicit call for changes in the government's approach to the media, the King said: "It is imperative to provide limitations and deterrents and to reconsider our policies towards (spoilers), because this obviously is not the standard we wished for our press in the age of democracy."

"Democracy does not mean crossing the red lines, destroying national unity, destroying what is worth something, and underestimating the achievements of this country," said the King.

The King also lashed out at professional unions whose executive councils are dominated by Islamists and leftists who have threatened punitive measures, including expulsion, against any of their members who deal with Israel or Israelis. Some professionals have already been expelled from their respective associations for such contacts.

The laws governing the professional unions state that anyone who wishes to practise his or her profession has to be a member of the relevant professional union and a suspension of membership would also mean that he or she could not continue to practise the profession.

"Do they (the professional associations) represent the thousands of this country's youth?" said the King. "Do they serve the interests of their professions (and professionals)? Until when will this crooked situation persist? Where is the difference between politics and professionalism?"

The King warned profes-

sional unions and associations to "stay away from politics and leave (politicizing) to politicians and members of parliament who are freely elected by the people."

In a meeting with the press in July, Sharif Zeid said the government was considering amendments to the laws on professional unions that would do away with the mandatory membership in associations for any professional.

Directing certain remarks to the prime minister in his speech on Thursday, the King asked the government to "ask my brothers (members) of the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution or any concerned party or take measures through dialogue (concerning) what should be done at the levels of the government, people (and parliament) to be fair to this country."

That was seen as an explicit call on the executive authority to propose amendments to laws concerning the work and mandate of the professional unions and associations as well as the Press and Publications Law.

Sharif Zeid told the Jordan Times on Friday: "We are determined to protect our democratic march and achievements. We will not allow anyone to abuse democratic freedoms to destroy the national fabric of society and democracy itself. We will continue to protect our accomplishments and our people's interests within the country's framework."

The prime minister did not say whether the government would introduce amendments

to the Press and Publications Law or that of the professional associations when Parliament resumes its regular session in December.

But government sources said that such legislative changes are being strongly considered as a way of stemming what is increasingly being viewed as incitement by especially the tabloid and political party press against the peace treaty with Israel.

One official described the approach of the tabloids as "verbal violence which could turn into physical violence."

According to a government source, "one way to counter that would be to bring down the threshold of punishment for violators of the law." One such measure could be a dramatic increase in fines imposed on those who are convicted of violating the Press and Publications Law (see stories below).

The King's hard-hitting speech obviously stemmed from frustration over what many government officials describe as the immaturity of the local media and professional associations to recognise the inevitability of accepting the course of history and realities on the ground.

"It seems that our hopes were not (compatible) with the size of reality when we lifted all restrictions," said the King, referring to the maximum penalty of JD 1,000 for violations of the Press and Publications Law.

The King referred to the atmosphere of extremist incitement in Israel that is widely seen as mainly responsible for the assassination of Mr. Rabin by a Jewish fanatic at a peace rally

"Life and death are in the hands of God and we do not fear criticism when we do justice," said the King. "I would always be, to the last moment of my life, there for you, from you and with you, to satisfy you with my conscience and work for God's will."

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Amendments to target 'yellow press'

(Continued from page 1)

weekly tabloids and political parties' newspapers, which he said, were belittling the achievements of the Kingdom and degrading its people and leadership.

"(In the yellow press... (there are) articles that defame the country, its leadership and its people," the King told army, intelligence and police officers, urging the government to take the necessary measures that would allow for checking excesses by these publications.

King Hussein had spoken of certain elements in the press that "do not belong to this country." While in earlier speeches he mainly gave advice for such papers and journalists to work for the interest of the Kingdom, the King on Thursday explicitly instructed the government not to tolerate the current situation and do something about it.

Sharif Zeid had also said that some journalists were on the payroll of foreign countries but added that legal action could not be taken against them because it was

hard to prove these charges in a court of law.

Weekly tabloids and some political party newspapers, which appeared on the newsstands after the current press law lifted restrictions on the publication of new newspapers and magazines, have run more confrontational stories against the policies of the state, especially after the signing of the peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

Such publications drew criticism, mainly from officials but also by other quarters, for sacrificing professionalism at the altar of sensationalism, commercialism and propaganda for certain ideologies and political beliefs.

It has become usual for such publications to publish sensational headlines for news stories that they fail to substantiate.

In expressing their opposition to the peace treaty with Israel, observers say, some of those papers not only presented views as news, but they offered these views to the readers in ways, when the officials said, could sow the

seeds of conflict in society.

In handling sensitive issues such as peace with Israel, ties with the Palestinians and other Arab states, these papers have failed to uphold professional standards in seeking accuracy and truth, spreading unrealistic fears among the people, officials say.

The King said that these publications were harming the interests of the state and are preaching division in society. His message on Thursday was a clear warning that he would no longer tolerate such practices and that the state had the means to ensure its security and stability.

The prompt response by the government by working to introduce legislative change that would strengthen its hand in dealing with those publications is a strong indication that it is going to use those means.

But some journalists say that the legislative changes that the government is expected to introduce should not allow for re-instituting the right to shut down publications for violating the law.

Some journalists pointed out that legislative instruments that enable the Executive Authority to close down newspapers could be of some point used against newspapers that do not commit violations of the name of the ones that have warranted the need to amend the Press and Publication Law.

This, they said, could harm the democratic process, which can guarantee respect for the law through other democratic measures such as imposing heavy fines on newspapers that disregard professional ethics, mislead the public or publish false stories that slander the citizens or the government.

The role of the press in a democracy, they said, is to act as a watchdog of the policies of the government in protection of the interests of the state. Concern for accuracy and the truth will win this press credibility even among governments which it criticises, the journalists said.

The government, on the other hand, should try to win the support of the credible press to its policies through convincing journalists of their viability.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

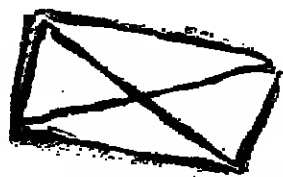
PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 Back to the Future
14:30 Harry and the Hendersons
15:00 Blue Heelers
15:45 Only in Hollywood
16:10 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme: Fractals
17:30 Varieties — Les Grands De Musique
19:00 Lc Journal
19:15 Magazine — Paul Pas Revier
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Major Qad
20:00 The First Flight
20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:35 Film: "Maid in America"
23:50

L'Histoire Secrete Du Petrole
00:30 My Good Friend

PRAYER TIMES
04:36 Fajr
05:30 Sunrise (Sunrise)
16:15 Dhuhr
16:43 Maghrib
18:43 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swifelh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 641757
Terrence Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652808
Assorted Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Assorted Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Epiphany Church Tel. 771751
Assorted



Jordanians turn out in 'large number' to condole Israeli embassy officials

By Jennifer Hamarneh and Beatrice Immenkamp

AMMAN — Officials at the Israeli embassy in Amman Friday were overwhelmed by the "large number" of Jordanians who visited the residence of Ambassador Shimon Shamir to convey their condolences on the death of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Rabin, who was assassinated by a Jewish extremist, was laid to rest last Monday following an emotional two-hour ceremony carried live on Jordan Television.

In a small receiving room at the residence of Israeli envoy Shimon Shamir, Gabriella Shamir, the wife of the ambassador, together with other embassy officials, received condolences all day Monday.

Mr. Shamir had left with His Majesty King Hussein to attend the funeral of Mr. Rabin in West Jerusalem.

On Tuesday Mr. Shamir was present at his residence until his scheduled departure again, this time with HRH Crown Prince Hassan who went to visit Leah Rabin, the wife of the slain Israeli leader.

Those who came to pay their respects to the Israeli ambassador to Jordan included, as was to be expected, many officials, among them members of the Royal family, government officials, present and previous members of the Armed Forces, mayors and several tribal sheikhs, the officials said.

More surprising to them, the officials said, was the "large number" of ordinary citizens, businessmen, professionals, students, workers and villagers of both Jordanian and Palestinian origin, who also came to extend their sympathies.

"People came in from the street, in their working clothes," said Shalom Turgeman, second secretary for press and cultural affairs at the embassy.

"Many came at the instigation of friends who had passed by earlier."

The visitors included people who had had previous contacts with the Israeli embassy in Amman, but numerous others whom members of the embassy did not know before.

"So many people we have never met and so many not connected to us in any way came by to pay their respects," said Mrs. Shamir.

Professionals who stopped by included lawyers, doctors and journalists, who, by visiting the ambassador's residence, were defying their associations' rules to avoid contact with Israelis, or face the threat of disciplinary measures being taken against them.

Mrs. Shamir said she was particularly moved by the number of university students who came to sign the condolences book.

10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The first of hundreds of faxes and telegrams carrying messages of condolence reached the embassy only hours after the news of the assassination was reported Saturday night.

The ambassador and his wife continued to receive visitors at their residence until Tuesday afternoon.

But according to Ms. Shlein-Michael, people were still paying respect at the embassy itself on Wednesday and Thursday, upon finding the residence closed. Some of them said that they had been unable to come earlier or that they had been out of town, she said.

She added that cables and other written messages continued to stream into the embassy.

"We are trying to respond in writing to as many as we can," Ms. Shlein-Michael said.

By Tuesday morning, the book of condolences at the residence was so filled with messages of sympathy and words of peace that a new book had to be opened, Ms. Shlein-Michael said.

"A second book has also been filled," she said.

According to Mr. Turgeman, many young visitors, in their late teens and early twenties, spoke of their admiration for the Israeli premier, who, they said, had set out to build a better future for them in the region — a sentiment expressed in the same words by many young Israelis, he added.

Thus, he said, the young generation in both countries is united by the sentiment that the late prime minister, alongside King Hussein, was leading them on a path of hope.

Another similarity between mourners in both countries was a certain feeling of remorse, even guilt, for having waited too long to express their support for the peace process, Mr. Turgeman said.

"We were shown that we have real friends in Jordan; the way people stood by us in this sad moment, the deeply-felt sorrow they were expressing. The people of Jordan came to express to the people of Israel that we are living in a state of peace," he said.

Visitors had travelled to the ambassador's residence in Amman from places as far away as Ramtha, Irbid, Ajloun, Um Qais, Karak, Ajloun and villages in the south, many spending hours on a bus in order to do what some referred to as "their duty" of offering their condolences, Mr. Turgeman said.

The stream of visitors began to flow to the residence at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning, the first day following Prime Minister Rabin's assassination, and only ebbed away at 10 p.m., regardless of the official opening hours of

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Bahrain-Jordan energy cooperation to start immediately, says official

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement signed by Bahrain and Jordan Thursday on cooperation in energy generation, distribution and maintenance and the exchange of expertise will take immediate effect, according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah.

Mr. Arafah who took part in the talks between teams from the two countries and attended the signing of the memorandum of understanding covering future cooperation, said Friday the Bahraini side promised to

send Jordan fully approved documents on such cooperation within days of their return to Manama.

The Bahraini delegation, which left Amman Thursday, agreed to launch full-scale cooperation with the JEA in the exchange of expertise, designing and operating electric power networks, developing national electricity systems training personnel, the use of alternative sources of energy and management of electricity installations.

The memorandum also provides for joint studies and consultations between the concerned authorities in power related affairs, the rationalisation of electricity consumption, the use of gas turbines at power stations, the use of solar and wind energy and desalination plants and cooperation in seminars and conferences dealing with electric and other forms of energy.

The two sides agreed to hold talks on secondment of experts from either country to the other and to conduct joint negotiations with financial institutions to secure funds and loans to finance power projects.

The memorandum was signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh and Bahraini Minister of Electricity and Water Abdullah Jumaa.

Mr. Jumaa and Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat signed a separate memorandum of understanding on bilateral cooperation in improving water resources management, protection of water resources from pollution and personnel training.

The memorandum calls for joint seminars and research related to water as well as the secondment of

Jordanian engineers to work in Bahrain.

Following the signing ceremony Dr. Irsheidat said Bahrain has significant experience in water desalination, and Jordan is experienced in underground water resources, irrigation networks and dams.

He said the two sides will exchange expertise in all these fields.

Dr. Irsheidat said a Bahraini technical team will visit Jordan soon to inspect the country's irrigation systems.

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Business sector urges Egypt to import more Jordanian goods

CAIRO (J.T.) — A Jordanian business delegation which held meetings with the Egyptian business community in Cairo has raised the question of the balance of trade between the two countries being in favour of Egypt and urged the Egyptians to increase the volume of its imports of Jordanian products.

Isam Budeir, one of the 50-member delegation, told the opening meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Business Council, which groups

representatives of the business communities of both countries, that the balance of trade was in favour of Egypt by some JD 25 million over the past few years.

The deficit trend to the balance of trade first appeared in 1990 when it stood at JD 8.8 million, rising gradually until 1994 when it showed an imbalance of JD 24.2 million, said Mr. Budeir.

He added that trade indicators in the first seven months of 1995 point to an

even higher margin of deficit.

The continuation of this deficit between the two countries requires immediate attention from the joint council, said Mr. Budeir.

He said this can be done through pumping new kinds of Jordanian products into the Egyptian market and encouraging Egyptian public and private organisations to increase their imports of Jordanian goods.

This can be backed later by involving the two coun-

tries' business communities in joint projects in tourism, industry, transport and construction fields, added Mr. Budeir.

The delegation, which returned to Amman Friday afternoon, discussed regional cooperation, the outcome of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit held in Amman in late October, and joint ventures in trade and industry in the coming stage during the three-day meeting, according to the Jordanian

Businessmen Association (JBA) whose chairman Hamdi Tabbaa led the Jordanian delegation to the meeting.

Under a trade agreement signed by Amman and Cairo, the two countries can exchange up to \$200 million worth of goods annually equally divided between the two sides.

The Cairo gathering was the sixth by the joint business council which was established in 1985.

Women's legal advice centres in Arab World to review experiences

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of 100 women representing legal advice centres in 10 Arab countries, including Jordan, will participate in a seminar Saturday to exchange views, experiences and difficulties encountered by their centres.

"We are aiming to come up with better strategies to aid women in all sorts of legal and psychological advice, and we are hoping that this meeting will be the instigator to organise similar meetings in the future," Sawwan Ishaq, a volunteer lawyer and a member of the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) legal advice centre, said.

According to Ms. Ishaq, the meeting, entitled "Legal advice programmes for women," will allow participants to review their cases, discuss the difficulties their centres faced, formulate future suggestions aimed at overcoming these obstacles and plan for future cases.

Speaking of the Jordanian experience, Ms. Ishaq, who

is in charge of receiving women seeking legal advice at the JWU's headquarters in Jabal Hussein, said that most women come to the centre complaining they are victims of domestic violence. She added that many women come in with questions about their rights within marriage, inheritance issues, and child custody rights.

"We sought to help all these women and directed about 35 women to the concerned authorities depending on the individual case since the centre was established in early 1995," she said.

According to Ms. Ishaq, these cases proved that there is an urgent need for a women's shelter in the Kingdom.

"In several cases we encountered some women who had no place to go because they were either kicked out of their homes or were being mistreated by their families, which indicates that there is a pressing need for a women's shelter," Ms. Ishaq told the Jordan Times.

In addition to free legal advice, the centres (the one in Jabal Hussein, and two others in Wihdat and Baqaa camps) recently started offering psychological therapy.

"It is a new service that has been included to aid women who suffer from depression because of a certain domestic situation," said Nuhia Hamawi, the psychological advisor at the JWU.

"We have witnessed a positive response from the women, and in some cases their husbands cooperated with us. I think this is a positive achievement by the JWU," Ms. Hamawi added.

Ms. Ishaq told the Jordan Times that the JWU is hoping to share all these experiences with the participants to the seminar and to encourage suggestions to further help such women in the future.

The seminar will be followed by a two-day workshop, entitled "What's after Beijing" at which the JWU members who participated in the U.N. World Conference on Women last Sep-

tember will evaluate their participation and exchange their experiences with other non-governmental organisations (NGO).

"We will introduce our experience and strategy as a union and try to draw a joint working plan with other organisations based on the Beijing conference resolutions," said Nadia Sharoukh, vice president of the JWU.

"We are hoping to form pressure groups that would call on the government to apply the Beijing resolutions which were signed by Jordan following the conclusion of the conference," she added.

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JS/01/95 FOR 400KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA

Jordan Electricity Authority declares that they have secured a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing the 400kv electrical interconnection project with the Syrian Network.

Jordan Electricity Authority intends to use part of this loan for financing of the Tender No. JS/01/95 for the supply and installation of the following 400kv Overhead Transmission Lines:

1- The 400kv single circuit overhead transmission line of a total length of about 60km from the Syrian border to the location of Amman North Substation.

2- The 400kv Double circuit overhead transmission line of a total length of about 40km from the location of Amman North S/SN to the location of Amman South S/SN.

The Tender includes the following options:

1- Supply of Steel Towers: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the steel towers for the two mentioned lines. The design and manufacturing drawings of the double circuit towers will be provided to the successful tenderer.

2- Conductors and Earthwires: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the phase conductors and the earthwires.

3- Optical Fibre Ground Wires (OPGW): Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the optical fibre ground wires.

4- Insulators and Fittings: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of insulator strings and fittings for the phase conductors and stranded steel earthwires.

5- Erection: Receiving of all necessary material for the 400kv transmission lines, transport and erection of the complete lines including the towers, insulator strings, conductors, earthwires, OPGW and fittings.

6- Turnkey: Design, manufacture, testing, delivery, insurance and erection of all needed 400kv transmission lines materials.

Tenderers who are interested to participate in any of the tender can obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Department in Jordan Electricity Authority main offices located between the 6th and the 7th circles- Jabal Amman starting from Saturday 11/11/95 onwards against a nonrefundable amount of USD 1000 or equivalent in Jordan Dinars in favour of Jordan Electricity Authority for each set of tender documents and submission of a purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment.

The purchase order should clearly include the Bidder's name, his local agent and address, telex, fax and telephone number.

Bids are to be submitted to the Secretary of Tendering Committee at the above address not later than 12:00 noon Amman time on Saturday 10/2/96 accompanied with a bid bond in the amount given in the tender documents.

Jordan Times

Tel: 684311

PSD announces road closures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) announced the closure of several roads in Amman starting at 11:00 a.m. for a parade planned in celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. The parade will begin from the Parliament building to Al Hussein Plaza. King Hussein street, from the Ministry of Education to downtown, will be closed to Al Hussein Plaza. The Army Street will also be closed.

The PSD advised drivers to use alternate routes if approaching Amman from the King Hussein Sports City and the Airport. The PSD suggested using Ain Ghazal and Ras Al Ein and Ashrafieh are advised to use Al Nasheda traffic lights then head towards Al Hussein Plaza to Wihdat. Those drivers coming from the northern parts of the country towards Amman should use Jebel Hossain, passing through the bridge at the Ministry of Interior circle to Firas Street and head right. From Jabal Amman to downtown, drivers are urged to use Al Hayak street downtown.

Bus stations in Abdali and Raghada will be closed. Bus stations in Abdali and Raghada will be closed. The PSD also suggested that drivers avoid using their private vehicles during this time as it is absolutely necessary in order to avoid congestion. The parade will be Armed Forces, PSD officers, members of the General Intelligence Department and the Civil Defence Department, guides and boy scouts, 4,000 Ministry of Education students, 1,000 military school students, university and community college students, 500 Amman Municipality workers and 12,000 representing the Kingdom's various governorates and their region's traditional costumes. King Hussein's birthday falls on Nov. 14, Tuesday. This year Tuesday has been declared a national holiday.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

* A service of Remembrance at the Church of the Redeemer at 6:00pm.

POETRY RECITAL

* Recital of poems by poets of the '90s at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00pm.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Iraqi Artist Ismail Fatah at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh.

* Works by Akram Abdel Jaber at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.

* Works by Dodi Taba'a entitled "Variations Graphiques 93-95" at the French Cultural Centre.

* Metal works by Ammar Khammash at Liwan, off Wadi Saqra Street. Also displaying all kinds of handicrafts. (Tel 699141)

* Works by Nazih Abu Afesh at Balka Art Gallery, Fuheis.

* A retrospective of works by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun.

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JS/02/95 FOR 400KV SWITCHGEAR, REACTORS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT FOR AMMAN NORTH SUBSTATION ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA

Jordan Electricity Authority declares that they have secured a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing the 400kv electrical interconnection project with the Syrian Network.

Jordan Electricity Authority intends to use part of this loan for financing of the Tender No. JS/02/95 which includes design, manufacture, delivery, installation, testing, commissioning and guarantee of 400kv conventional outdoor switchgear as Option 1 or 400kv SF6 metal clad switchgear as Option 2 and control, protection and ancillary equipment complete with civil works for Amman North 400kv Substation.

Tenderers who are interested to participate in this tender can obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Department in Jordan Electricity Authority main offices located between the 6th and the 7th circles- Jabal Amman starting from Saturday 11/11/1995 onwards against a nonrefundable amount of USD 1000 or equivalent in Jordan Dinars in favour of Jordan Electricity Authority for each set of tender documents and submission of a purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment.

The purchase order should clearly include the tenderer's name, his local agent and address, telex, fax and telephone number.

In case the tenderer requires the tender documents to be sent to him by mail, the express airmail cost will be added.

Bids are to be submitted to the Secretary of Tendering Committee at the above address not later than 12:00 noon Amman time on Saturday 10/2/1996 accompanied with a tender bond in the amount given in the tender documents.

Angry Major tells Commonwealth summit partners they are wrong

AUCKLAND (R) — Prime Minister John Major angrily described the other 51 Commonwealth countries as "just plain wrong" Friday as Britain was left totally isolated in its support of French nuclear testing.

Mr. Major made no attempt to conceal his fury at a Commonwealth statement saying the overwhelming majority of governments condemned nuclear tests and urged an immediate halt to them.

"I think that what they have got in their statement is factually inaccurate, intellectually inconsistent and unbalanced and I haven't signed up for that and they know that," he said.

"I've made it perfectly clear: I think the view that has been expressed by our Commonwealth colleagues is just plain wrong — just plain wrong," Mr. Major told reporters at the end of the summit's first day of talks.

Britain's isolation evoked memories of Common-

wealth summits of the 1980s when Margaret Thatcher found herself in a minority of one in her opposition to sanctions against South Africa.

"If it is once again one against 48, then I am very sorry for the 48," Mrs. Thatcher said in Kuala Lumpur in 1989.

The joint leaders' statement noted "The widespread anger caused by the current programmes of nuclear weapon tests" and was chiefly directed at France, although it mentioned no country by name.

Mr. Major had made clear beforehand that he would not subscribe to criticism of Paris, which is half-way through an expected series of six nuclear tests in French Polynesia in the South Pacific.

The statement said the continuing tests flew in the face of pledges by the nuclear powers to show "utmost restraint" so as not to jeopardise prospects for a comprehensive test ban

treaty. New Zealand and Australia, the two most vocal opponents of French testing, proclaimed their satisfaction.

Despite the acrimony, the statement cleared the way for leaders to turn their attention to the other main issue on the conference agenda: Nigeria.

Officials said they would weigh their response to Nigerian death sentences on nine minority rights activists during a weekend retreat in the South Island resort of Queenstown.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi said his country refused to be put in the dock. He accused the world's press of distorting the case of condemned writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight associates, saying they were guilty of "gruesome murder".

"We are not coming here for an inquisition," said Mr. Ikimi.

"There should be understanding and discussion, not

persecution of a country because it does not have the advantage of powerful media that some other countries have."

Leaders of the 52-nation Commonwealth, debating ways to give teeth to a 1991 declaration on democracy and good government, are under pressure to match words with deeds on Nigeria.

The death sentence of Ken Saro-Wiwa is an example of the type of behaviour we all want to see abolished," Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien told the summit's opening ceremony.

The United States and European Union are among leaders of a chorus of condemnation of Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and a major oil producer. It has been under military rule since 1993 elections were annulled and strongman General Sani Abacha seized power.



POLAND ELECTION CAMPAIGN: Former Polish Communist leader Alexander Kwasniewski smiles as he is framed by traditionally dressed folk singers during a campaign trip to Maslowice, a village in central Poland. Maslowice is a stronghold of Mr. Kwasniewski who will run in the second round of Polish presidential elections against incumbent Lech Walesa on Nov. 19 (AFP photo)

Irish police stop suspected van bomb

BELFAST (R) — Irish police said they found a suspected bomb in a van they stopped early Friday near the border with Northern Ireland.

Two men were being held under Irish anti-terrorism laws in connection with the discovery, a police spokesman said.

"It is believed that there was a bomb on board," he added. "We won't know for definite until it is examined by army experts."

Initial media reports said that one of the two being held was linked to the Irish National Republican Army,

a little-known breakaway group opposed to British rule in Northern Ireland and to current moves towards a peace settlement.

Northern Ireland has enjoyed an unprecedented 15-month period of calm since the main Republican guerrilla force, the Irish Republican Army (IRA), and its "loyalist" Protestant foes declared matching truces.

Only three bombs, all unexploded, have been found in this period by British security forces, a stark contrast to the violence and the 3,200 deaths

in 25 years of sectarian conflict before the ceasefires.

Specialist Irish police units and Irish troops have heightened security near the border in recent months to prevent any breaches of the ceasefires by breakaway groups.

The peace process is currently in stalemate, with the British government insisting that guerrilla groups hand in arms before joining all-party peace talks, a position described by the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein as a "demand for surrender."

Rigging claims mar Azeri elections

BAKU (AFP) — Azerbaijan's general election Sunday, which the authorities hope will bring stability after two coups in four years of independence, has already been dismissed by opposition parties as heavily rigged.

The 4.4 million electorate will also be taking part in a referendum on a new constitution strengthening the powers of President Geidar Aliyev, who was the number one here in Soviet days and has been ruling again for just more than two years.

Uncovering plots has become something of a way of life, the latest with four men arrested early this month for reportedly plotting to shoot down Mr. Aliyev's plane.

The four main opposition movements have been barred from the poll to elect 125 members of the Milli Majlis (National Assembly), 25 seats by proportional representation, 100 by majority vote in constituencies.

The Electoral Commission ruled last month that the parties had committed irregularities in the nomination of candidates.

They included the Communists, who are urging a boycott, and Musavat, a Muslim democratic movement whose leader Isa Gambar commented, "these elections are already a farce."

Azerbaijan was moving towards authoritarianism instead of democracy, he said, complaining that the

authorities were using all sorts of trickery to survive. Observers from the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe issued a joint statement this week stating that "The real cause of unease is linked with the possibility that some candidates and parties may have been unlawfully deprived of participation in the elections."

The mission therefore notes that voters have been deprived of freely electing their own representatives. Eight parties are registered for the proportional voting and there are 392 candidates for the 100 constituency seats. The Popular Front of former President Abulfaz Elchibey, overthrown in June 1993, is the only opposition party in the proportional poll.

Its deputy chief Asim Mollazade, decrying "electoral manipulation," said that nonetheless it was necessary to take part if there was the slightest chance that even a single independent won a seat "to let us continue the struggle by political means."

Mr. Aliyev's Yeni Azerbaijan (New Azerbaijan) and a number of pro-government parties complete the field.

Yeni's deputy leader Ali Nagiyev said the Caucasus republic of 7.5 million people was for the first time experiencing an election campaign "based on democratic and multi-party principles." He admitted there had been some "inadequa-

cies", but said the authorities had "other very important questions on their mind."

A major row broke out last month when Mr. Aliyev's adviser Neimat Panakhov, leader of the National State Party, suddenly broke ranks and told a press conference the elections results had already been prepared.

Yeni would have 36 majority vote seats and 18 of the proportional vote seats, an absolute majority would be ensured for the Aliyev camp, and a mere two seats would go to the Popular Front, Mr. Panakhov claimed.

The international observer team, which will have slightly more than 100 monitors in place Sunday, declined to comment on the allegations of premeditated fraud. OSCE spokesman Michael Ochs said the mission was confident it had the means to get a sufficiently clear idea of what occurred when voting took place.

In a country where the average monthly wage is barely \$10, and despite the prospect of riches from recently signed oil contracts, the election campaign has aroused little popular enthusiasm.

"The most important thing is that one has to scurry about every day to see to it that you do not die of hunger," said Fuad, 35. He added dismissively, "as for politics..."

Russian deputies ask Constitutional Court to examine electoral law

MOSCOW (AFP) — In a fresh challenge to the upcoming legislative elections, about 100 Russian deputies Friday asked the Constitutional Court to examine the legality of several parts of the electoral law.

Reformist deputy Gleb Yakunin told AFP that the legislators had asked the court to examine Article 62 of the electoral law, which includes the requirement for parties to get at least five per cent of the vote to qualify for seats in parliament.

They also asked the court to rule on a clause stipulating that Russians living outside the country could not vote, he said.

A court spokesman said Friday that he was aware of the latest challenge by the deputies but could not confirm that it was being studied by the court.

Preparations for the Dec. 17 poll were also thrown into turmoil Thursday when

the Supreme Court ordered the Constitutional Court to examine the legality of Article 62.

The elections to the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, are expected to bring victories for nationalist and pro-Communist parties opposed to President Boris Yeltsin, who is in hospital for heart trouble.

The five-per cent rule is mainly opposed by parties with the least support. A total of 42 parties are registered for the elections, the Electoral Commission announced Friday, which was the deadline for registration.

Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, who favours delaying the elections, told parliament that the electoral law would not be debated before a ruling by the Constitutional Court.

The assembly is divided on the issue with reformists from smaller parties in

favour of amending the law and others opposed.

"Behind the challenge to the Constitutional Court is the hope that the elections could be annulled or the results invalidated," Alexandre Ossovtsov, a deputy with the Russia's Choice party said.

He added that Mr. Yeltsin's entourage was backing these initiatives along with deputies who fear losing the election.

Another reformist deputy, Boris Fiodorov, said that any change in the law would be "inadmissible."

"Even if the law is imperfect, you cannot change the electoral process while it is already under way," he said.

Ivan Besspalov, a Communist deputy opposed to any changes in the law, charged that the constitutional challenges were an attempt by Mr. Yeltsin to prevent the Communists from having a majority in parliament.

Pakistani Islamic party stages rally, vows mobilisation against government

LAHORE (AFP) — Pakistan's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-I-Islami, wound up a successfully three-day rally here Friday with a vow to launch a campaign of mass mobilisation against the government.

Tens of thousands people from all over Pakistan attended the rally in the central Pakistani city of Lahore from Wednesday to Friday.

Islamic leaders repeatedly criticised the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the main opposition, the Pakistan Muslim League, for "failing the people."

"We want to break out of this rut of a two-party regime," Jamaat Senator Khurshid Ahmad told AFP. "We want to give the people another option,"

the mass turnout at the

rally comes at a time when Islamic parties were generally considered to be losing ground in Pakistan.

Sen. Ahmad said his party would capitalise on its apparent success and push for a three-point agenda, focusing on establishing Islam as the national identity, unifying the Muslim community and getting rid of "corrupt leadership."

Lahore's rally was clearly a show of strength, and Jamaat leaders made it clear that they would encourage protest at all levels in the country.

Speakers at the rally criticised Western powers for their "interference" in the Islamic World, saying the new world order was another form of colonialism. They called on the Muslim world to unite on issues

ranging from Kashmir to Bosnia.

The Jamaat rally was attended by representatives of several Western and Islamic countries including Egypt, Sudan, Kuwait, Iran, Turkey, Bosnia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Chechnya, Germany, France, Norway and Sweden, Sen. Ahmad said.

The Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was represented by an Algerian delegate from Europe, according to Sen. Ahmad, but no journalist met him.

"The Islamic International is already in place," said Sen. Ahmad. Who stressed that informal links have always existed between the Islamic groups, without any formal institution.

Japanese court assigns more lawyers to defend Asahara

TOKYO (AP) — A court added seven lawyers Thursday to the team defending doomsday cult leader Shoko Asahara against murder charges in the lethal nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subway.

The unusual move apparently was part of efforts to prevent further delays in his trial, news reports said. The first session, scheduled in late October, was postponed after Asahara fired his lawyer and has yet to be rescheduled.

Mr. Asahara later rebuffed the lawyer, but meanwhile the Tokyo District Court began assigning others to assist the lone defence counsel, Shoji Yokoyama. Before Thursday's appointments, three already had been assigned to help sort out the complex cases against the leader of the Aum Shinri Kyn cult.

The major charge against

Asahara is that he masterminded the March 20 release of the nerve gas sarin on Tokyo's subway, which killed 12 people and sickened more than 5,500 others.

He also has been charged in an earlier sarin attack that killed seven people in a northern city and in the deaths of a wayward cult follower and a lawyer and his family. The lawyer had been opposing the cult in court.

Kyodo News Service cited unnamed police sources Thursday as saying police were preparing to ask prosecutors to bring additional charges against Asahara for suspected illegal production of machine guns and hallucinogenic drugs.

Asahara had predicted an apocalypse that only cult members would survive, and media reports quoting

police sources have said the cult was preparing various kinds of weapons for attacks aimed at making the prediction come true.

The alleged gun and drug production took place at the cult's main compound at Kamikuishiki, Yamanashi prefecture (state), near Mount Fuji.

Also Thursday, Kyodo News Service said 481 Kamikuishiki residents, who have long opposed the activities of the cult on a ranch in the rural community, filed a civil suit demanding 240 million Yen (\$2.35 million) from the cult.

They say the cult's alleged sarin production at its commune there "infringed on our right to live a stable, safe life," said Kyodo, which quoted suit documents.

The cult moved to the commune in 1989.

Pat Barker wins British literary prize

LONDON (R) — English novelist Pat Barker, writer of a haunting trilogy about World War I, fought off a fierce challenge from Indian-born Salman Rushdie Tuesday to win Britain's top literary prize.

Barker, a 52-year-old former teacher from northern England whose first novel was not published until she was 39, landed the £20,000 (\$31,650) Booker Prize for *The Ghost Road*.

It intermingled fact with fiction in the tale of a working-class lieutenant battling the horrors of the trenches alongside poet Wilfred Owen.

Recalling the psychological scars of the conflict, she told reporters: "Shell shock was misunderstood as a failure of manliness. This was part of the torment the men suffered."

Barker, facing the literary

equivalent of Hollywood Oscar night, said she was sick of hearing her own voice and thanked her competitors for their friendly attitude — and for writing such wonderful books.

Rushdie, under threat of death from Iran for blasphemy, had been the hottest favourite in the 27-year history of the prestigious prize. Bookmakers considered him a certainty to win with *The Moor's Last Sign*.

But Barker, the first woman to land the Booker since A.S. Byatt in 1990, emerged the winner after hours of heated debate by the judges.

She said the lessons of World War I should not be forgotten: "I wanted to get people not just to think about the horrors of it but to actually think quite deeply about why it happened and the effects it had on soci-

ety."

Barker was a teacher who "lived on a diet of rejection slips" before her first novel *Union Street* was published in 1982. It was later made into a film *Stanley and Iris* starring Jane Fonda and Robert De Niro — not a happy adaptation for her.

But she really won literary acclaim with her three books on World War I, culminating in *The Ghost Road*, published by Viking Press at £15 (\$23.69).

Barker, who drew much inspiration from her grandfather's tales of the trenches, said: "The *Somme* is like the Holocaust. It revealed things about mankind that we cannot come to terms with and cannot forget. It can never become the past."

Departing PR chief blasts U.K. ruling party

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major, reeling from a parliamentary defeat on rules to curb political sleaze, suffered a new blow Thursday when his departing press chief attacked the ruling party's "siege mentality."

Hugh Colver, a former journalist and head of press relations at the Ministry of Defence, quit Wednesday as Conservative Party communications director after just six months in the job.

Mr. Colver, 50, explained his sudden and unexpected resignation by saying he was not suited to the job of handling the party's image in the run-up to the next election, due within 18 months.

But in an article Thursday in the Sun newspaper, usually loyal to the Conservatives, Mr. Colver attacked a party he said had managed to "continually snuff defeat from the jaws of victory."

Mr. Colver said he had sat in on countless high-level ministerial meetings where potential trouble spots were identified in plenty of time to take avoiding action.

But despite having the advantage of "a well-oiled government machine at our fingertips," Mr. Colver said members of the cabinet "simply raised their hands in surrender."

"The Tory (Conservative) Party behave as if they are in office by divine right — and assume voters will eventually see sense and rally to the flag."

"With this siege mentality, they are prepared to lose these battles in the assumption that they will eventually win the war," he said in a bitter attack on a party which has held power for 16 years but which polls give little chance of a new term.

"It is the Mohammad Ali technique of taking a terrible battering in the hope of exhausting your opponent while you stay on your feet," Mr. Colver wrote.

Mr. Colver also took aim at Mr. Major himself, saying he had yet to show "resolute day-to-day leadership."

The attack came just three days after many Conservative members of parliament ignored Mr. Major's advice and sided with the opposition Labour Party to force MPs to declare how much they earn from acting as political consultants to companies.

It was a personal humiliation for Mr. Major, who polls have shown trails Labour badly.

Itching to get out of school? Buy a louse

SOFIA (AFP) — Bulgarian students itching to get out of school have found a novel way to do so — using lice. According to local news reports, the school system in Bulgaria has faced an outbreak of lice since the beginning of the school year, and the problem has been traced to a flea market where the creepy creatures are sold to students seeking to play hooky. The Bulgarian news agency (BTA) said the lice are sold for 10 lev (15 cents) apiece at the Choumen market, northeast of the capital. Some kids buy a jar-full and then sell the creatures to their schoolmates, who are entitled to three days off school to delouse.

Florida teachers boycott Chinese theme park

CLEARWATER, Florida — (R) Public school teachers voted to halt student field trips to a theme park operated by a Chinese government agency because they said it gives an inaccurate portrayal of Tibet. The Pinellas Classroom Teachers' Association said they had voted to urge teachers and their families not to visit the \$100 million splendid China Theme Park because of what one educator called "propaganda and misinformation" about Tibet. "It's an opportunity to show we stand for what we teach," said teacher Dennis Harrison of Clearwater. "If we teach justice and non-violence, then we ought to stand up for it."

Model Anna Nicole Smith hospitalised

LOS ANGELES (R) — Model Anna Nicole Smith, who caused a sensation by marrying a 90-year-old oil baron last year, was in hospital but her publicist and lawyer both denied it was because of a drug overdose. Publicist Tony Angellotti said Ms. Smith, 27, suffered an adverse reaction from prescription medicine and dismissed television reports she had taken an overdose. A spokesman for the hospital, St. Joseph's in Burbank, declined to acknowledge she was a patient. Her lawyer in Houston, Diana Marshall, said: "She is not suffering from an overdose or any inappropriate use of drugs."

Paris gets charitable as opera duo to head gala evenings

PARIS (AFP) — Two of the leading voices in world opera will lend their prodigious talents to differing charitable causes in Paris later this month. Spanish tenor Jose Carreras will perform during a charity gala next Monday at the Palais Des Congress in western Paris in aid of "science for peace," currently involved in genetic research projects along the River Jordan and in Tunisia. The French National Orchestra directed by Jeffrey Tate will also participate in the charity evening.

Wounded monk seal rescued off Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — A wounded baby monk seal, one of the world's most endangered species, is recovering at Mauritania's National Oceanographic and Fisheries Research Centre (CNROP) after being rescued at sea. CNROP said Thursday the nine-week-old seal, named Aziza by a researcher, had apparently got lost in a storm a week ago. She was found between Cap Blanc and Guerra by Spanish environmentalists working with CNROP.

Chirac

view of the plane crash in Paris. The Chirac's death (AFP photo)

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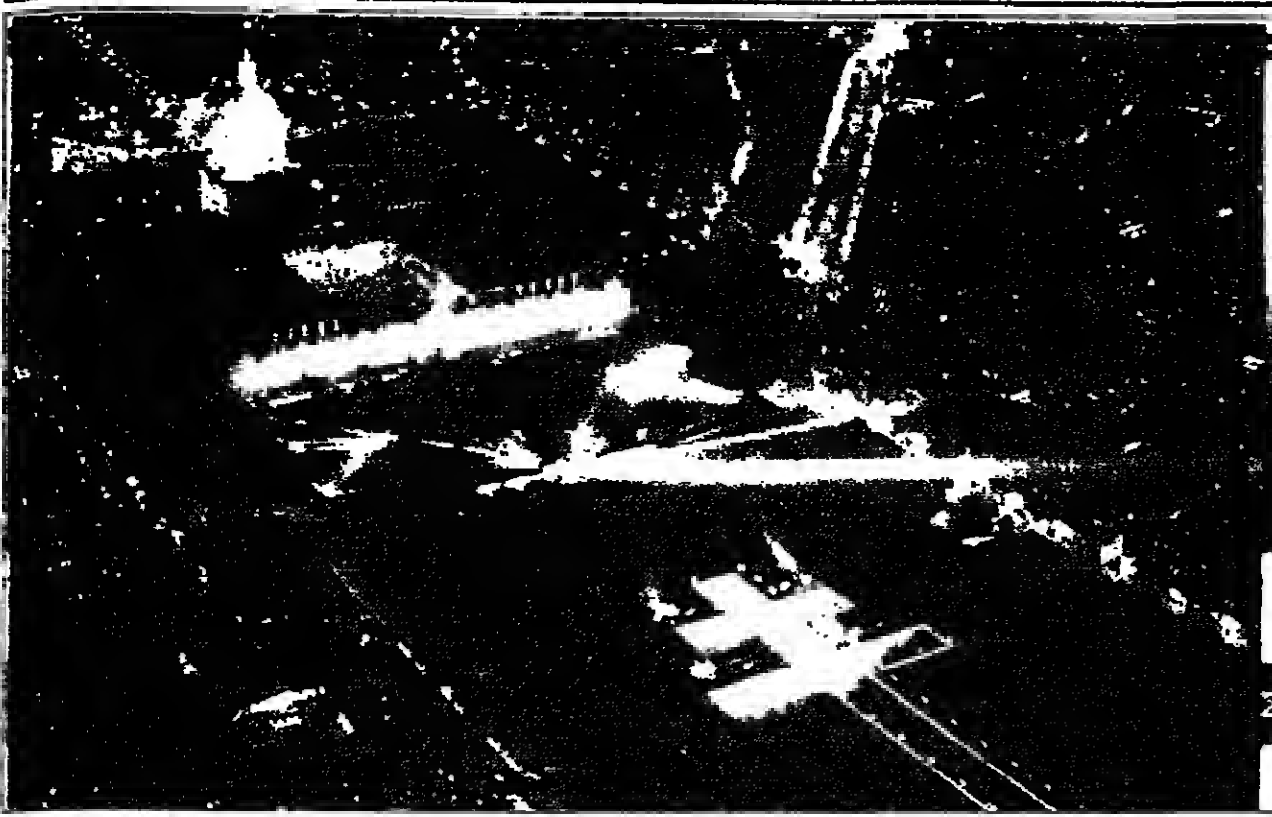
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Aerial view of the giant Cross of the Lorraine which was formed by 800 French soldiers in front of the Hotel Des Invalides in Paris. The display was part of a ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of General Charles De Gaulle's death (AFP photo)

Chirac projects himself as heir to De Gaulle

PARIS (R) — President Jacques Chirac, sinking in the opinion polls, is projecting himself as the successor of Gen. Charles De Gaulle Thursday in ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the historic French leader's death.

Mr. Chirac began the day by laying a wreath of flowers in the blue, white and red national colours on Gen. De Gaulle's grave at Colombey-Les-Deux-Églises, the tiny east France village where the late president died on Nov. 9, 1970 and was buried.

He later stood, flanked by the general's family, at a grandiose night-time ceremony on the vast esplanade des Invalides near the River Seine as nearly 1,000 torch-carrying soldiers formed a huge Cross of Lorraine, the Gaullist emblem.

"But even some Gaullists were taken aback and spoke of excess and bad taste when they learned Chirac had spent the night at La Boisserie, the general's home at Colombey which has been uninhabited since his widow's death in 1979."

Mr. Chirac was invited by retired Admiral Philippe De Gaulle, the general's only son who is a Senate member for the Rally For the Republic (RPR) party which carried Mr. Chirac to power.

Mr. Chirac's attempts to demonstrate he was the general's heir came with his popularity tumbling faster than that of any other president less than six months after he took office. One recent poll showed he had the support of only 14 per cent of voters.

Polls reflect dissatisfaction over failure to roll back near-record unemployment and implement campaign promises of tax cuts. Voters also are concerned over mounting violence in immigrant-inhabited suburbs.

Polls show that Gen. De Gaulle, who ruled in 1944-46 and 1958-69, was the most popular French president of modern times.

Most politicians praised Gen. De Gaulle Thursday as a man of vision who fought the Nazi occupation, led France away from the trauma of World War II and founded the Fifth Republic in 1958.

He also gave France the atom bomb in 1960. Mr. Chirac's most controversial move has been to resume nuclear tests.

Others paying tribute at Colombey were several hundred ageing ex-servicemen of Gen. De Gaulle's wartime free French forces who reminisced about the leader who marked their lives.

Pierre Clostermann, France's leading World War II fighter pilot who shot down 33 German planes, recalled meeting the general for the first time in London when he arrived to join the Free French Movement in 1941.

"I was petrified. He did all the talking. He told me: 'You want to be a fighter pilot. Well, try not to get killed, we'll still need people like you after the war.'"

"I replied 'oui mon general,' saluted and tried to turn around without getting my feet caught in the carpet," said Mr. Clostermann, now 74.

"The second time we met was towards the end of the war and I was pretty well decorated by then and had decided it would be chic to wear laced up boots like the World War I fighter aces."

"The general took one look at me and said: 'Clostermann, you look as if you're going fishing or horse riding. Get back into uniform,' my ego was deflated in one second. What could I say? 'oui mon general' as usual," he said with a laugh.

He is to meet his South Korean counterpart, Kim Young-Sam to discuss security issues.

"China sees South Korea as a very important partner politically and in trade terms," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

"It's a very clear (Chinese) decision to upgrade relations with the South," he said. "The North cannot do much to support China. The South is in a much better position to do so."

China and North Korea described their alliance "as close as lips and teeth" in the decades after jointly beating back U.S. troops in the 1950-53 Korean War.

The first strains in their relationship emerged in the early 1990s when Beijing, eager to tap South Korean investment, began warming toward Seoul. This was a stinging ideological affront to Pyongyang, which regarded China as its only main ally after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Relations soured further in 1992 when Beijing and Seoul established diplomatic relations.

The Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Beijing said it welcomed Mr. Jiang's upcoming visit, and bilateral trade and investment was expected to continue to flourish.

The value of two-way trade in the first nine months of 1995 surged 47.1 per cent to \$11.5 billion from the same 1994 period. It is expected to hit \$15 billion for the whole of 1995, up from \$11.66 billion in 1994.

South Korean businessmen have poured billions of dollars into China, making it one of the top destinations for South Korean investment.

China, which embraced market reforms in the 1980s, now pays only lip service to its comradeship with North Korea, which still clings to Stalinist collectivism.

President Jiang made a rare visit to Pyongyang's embassy in Beijing this month to attend a banquet marking the 50th founding anniversary of the North's ruling Workers Party.

"It is to show the North Koreans that they have not been forgotten," a second diplomat said of the visit. "They've tried hard to reassure the North Koreans."

Sri Lanka troops march on Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops resumed their advance on Jaffna town Friday, picking their way through dirt tracks and scrubland expected to be liberally peppered with landmines and booby-traps, a military source and residents said.

The troops left their bunkers at first light after spending close to two weeks digging in on the outskirts of the northern town, the strategic and spiritual capital of the Tamil rebels' "Eelam", or homeland, the source told Reuters.

"How long it takes to get into Jaffna town depends on the resistance" by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), he said. "The axis is towards Jaffna City so you can say we are heading for Jaffna."

Residents arriving at government-controlled Vavuniya, south of the northern Jaffna peninsula, also said the army had renewed its advance and fighting had resumed. The military merely said in a statement that troops had "recommenced their advance."

It is the monsoon season in Jaffna but the weather has been clear for the past two days, the military source said. He added that the town had probably been mined and booby-trapped by fleeing LTTE cadres, who are fighting for a homeland in the north and east of tropical Sri Lanka.

On Thursday the government announced that President Chandrika Kumaratunga, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, would miss the Commonwealth summit in New Zealand "due to the exigencies of the evolving situation here", prompting some analysts to wonder if the "big push" on Jaffna was imminent.

The armed forces launched Operation Riviresa on Oct. 17, pushing to within a few miles of the town centre. But official spokesmen have been at pains to stress that troops will only go into Jaffna in their own time, as they do not want to suffer unnecessary casualties from mines.

On Friday a senior military source said the rebels were holding back civilians in the town to increase the likelihood of casualties and a subsequent outcry overseas when the army strikes.

But the majority of rebels and civilians have fled the town, with estimates from 100,000 to almost 500,000 refugees holed up in camps at Chavakachcheri, east of Jaffna town, and south across the Jaffna Lagoon at camps in and around Kilinochchi.

Jaffna residents arriving at Vavuniya said there were long queues at jewellery shops with people trying to sell gems to get money for food. Vegetables, flour and bread are all in short supply.

Aid agencies say Jaffna City is largely deserted. Military analysts say about 40,000 rebels and civilians may still be in the town.

Two days without rain may have helped sway the army into resuming its advance, making the transport of men and material easier. Dry weather also allows mortar shells to achieve their maximum destructive potential by fragmenting instead of penetrating boggy land.

The government has stressed that it has been forced into the war by the LTTE, who ended a truce in April and shunned invitations to view a "peace package" of devolution proposals.

Colombo says the aim of the war is to liberate the

Tamils in the north and east from the LTTE's grip. But a Western diplomat said of the Jaffna push: "You can't liberate someone if there is no one there to liberate."

In separate incidents, troops killed four rebels in eastern Batticaloa district Thursday night, while one policeman was killed and two wounded by rebel fire in the strategic eastern port of Trincomalee, the military said.

The military estimates 1,000 rebels have been killed in three weeks of fighting on the Jaffna peninsula and puts its own losses at 221 killed and 536 wounded.

More than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year war.

The Sri Lankan army said more than 90 Tamil Tiger guerrillas and soldiers were killed when the armed forces resumed their advance against Jaffna Friday.

Twelve soldiers and one officer were killed and 77 wounded, the military said in a statement. "Seventy-eight terrorists were confirmed killed and a minimum of 200 terrorists are estimated to have been injured," it said.

Jiang's visit to Seoul is seen boosting ties

BEIJING (R) — China's President Jiang Zemin is to visit South Korea next week in a move analysts said Friday would boost ties while further cooling Beijing's comradeship with Seoul's arch-rival, Pyongyang.

Mr. Jiang is scheduled to begin his five-day historic visit next Monday, the first trip to Seoul by a Chinese head of state since diplomatic relations were established in 1992.

He is to meet his South Korean counterpart, Kim Young-Sam to discuss security issues.

"China sees South Korea as a very important partner politically and in trade terms," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

"It's a very clear (Chinese) decision to upgrade relations with the South," he said. "The North cannot do much to support China. The South is in a much better position to do so."

China and North Korea described their alliance "as close as lips and teeth" in the decades after jointly beating back U.S. troops in the 1950-53 Korean War.

The first strains in their relationship emerged in the early 1990s when Beijing, eager to tap South Korean investment, began warming toward Seoul. This was a stinging ideological affront to Pyongyang, which regarded China as its only main ally after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Relations soured further in 1992 when Beijing and Seoul established diplomatic relations.

The Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Beijing said it welcomed Mr. Jiang's upcoming visit, and bilateral trade and investment was expected to continue to flourish.

The value of two-way trade in the first nine months of 1995 surged 47.1 per cent to \$11.5 billion from the same 1994 period. It is expected to hit \$15 billion for the whole of 1995, up from \$11.66 billion in 1994.

South Korean businessmen have poured billions of dollars into China, making it one of the top destinations for South Korean investment.

China, which embraced market reforms in the 1980s, now pays only lip service to its comradeship with North Korea, which still clings to Stalinist collectivism.

President Jiang made a rare visit to Pyongyang's embassy in Beijing this month to attend a banquet marking the 50th founding anniversary of the North's ruling Workers Party.

"It is to show the North Koreans that they have not been forgotten," a second diplomat said of the visit. "They've tried hard to reassure the North Koreans."

China is aware its influence over North Korea has waned in recent years, but it has not dumped Pyongyang altogether, analysts say.

North Korea is upset about Mr. Jiang's upcoming visit to South Korea, but there is little they can do about it, political analysts said.

"The North is pretty upset about Jiang going to Seoul," the first diplomat said.

"But the North cannot have any particular way they can put the Chinese at an advantage," he said. "They haven't got any other friends."

Chu Chang-Chun, North Korea's ambassador to China, shrugged off any significance of Mr. Jiang's Seoul trip and told reporters last month that the North "pays no attention" to the visit and that it will not affect ties between the two Communist neighbours.

U.S. erred in key Vietnam War decision — McNamara

HANOI (R) — Former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara, in a major revision of U.S. military history, said Friday Washington had erred in a key 1964 decision to escalate the Vietnam War.

Mr. McNamara, who was speaking at a news conference in the Vietnamese capital, said talks Thursday between himself and Vietnam's top military tactician, General Vo Nguyen Giap, had revealed President Johnson had acted on wrong information when he used an alleged North Vietnamese torpedo attack to justify the first air strikes against North Vietnam.

"We were wrong. General Giap made absolutely clear, and I don't think we need any further documentation, he made absolutely clear it hadn't occurred. Had we known that at the time we wouldn't have carried out the subsequent military attack," he said.

On Aug. 2 1964 North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked the destroyer USS Maddox in waters off northern Vietnam.

Two days later the Maddox reported a second attack prompting President Johnson to forward the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution to Congress justifying U.S. retaliatory air strikes and marking a turning point in the war.

But Mr. McNamara said General Giap had revealed the second attack on the Maddox never took place.

"(Had we known that) we wouldn't at that time have sent any troops to Vietnam, and I don't think we need any further documentation, he made absolutely clear it hadn't occurred. Had we known that at the time we wouldn't have carried out the subsequent military attack," he said.

East Asia.

"Would that have changed the course of the war? You can't say for sure. I think that resolution would have gone up later... But clearly there was a major event on which we were in error."

Mr. McNamara, 79, resigned as defence secretary in 1968 after overseeing the U.S. military buildup in Indochina. In memoirs published in August this year he sparked heated debate in the United States by saying Washington had been "terribly wrong" to continue the war beyond 1963.

His return to Vietnam, two decades after the war ended, is ostensibly to set up a joint U.S.-Vietnamese seminar aimed at re-examining the events of a war which cost more than 58,000 American lives and left more than four million Vietnamese dead or injured.

Mr. McNamara said he had received support for the conference plan from Vietnamese officials and was hoping the event could be held in Hanoi in late 1996.

However he denied his return mission to Vietnam was connected to personal feelings of guilt, hinted at in his memoirs, for a conflict which became known in the 1960s as McNamara's War.

"We all make mistakes in life and I am not trying to atone for mine. This isn't the only error of judgement I have made. It's not atonement," he said.

Mr. McNamara's three day visit to Vietnam was due to end later Friday.

Seoul prosecutors mull summoning Roh again

SEOUL (R) — State prosecutors said Friday they were considering summoning disgraced ex-President Roh Tae-Woo again after questioning heads of South Korea's top business conglomerates over his \$654 million slush fund.

"Former President Roh Tae-Woo can be summoned for more questioning," senior prosecutor Ahn Kang-Min told reporters.

Local media and many political commentators have speculated that summoning Roh again would be a prelude to his arrest. This would make him the first South Korean head of state, serving or retired, to face criminal action.

The daily Maeil Kyungje quoted government sources as saying Mr. Roh would be arrested on Nov. 20.

Mr. Ahn, who is leading the inquiry into the slush fund scandal, said the prosecution had not decided whether Mr. Roh would be summoned again.

Late last month Mr. Roh, 62, tearfully confessed that he amassed \$654 million during his 1988-1993 term in office through donations from big business conglomerates.

When Mr. Roh was summoned for the first time last week, he told prosecutors that he either could not reveal or did not remember how he amassed and concealed the slush fund.

Mr. Ahn said Friday the prosecutors ordered five more business moguls, including the chairmen of Sunkyong Kia and Kumho Groups, to appear before them to find out if they offered money to Mr. Roh as kickbacks for lucrative state projects.

Sunkyong head Chey Jong-Hyun is Mr. Roh's relative by marriage.

Mr. Ahn said the chairman of the giant Daewoo Group which is alleged to have helped Mr. Roh convert some \$39 million in his false-name bank accounts into real-name accounts, would be called in Sunday or Monday.

He said Dong Bang Group Chairman Shin Myoung-Soo, whose daughter is married to Mr. Roh's son, left the prosecutors' office Friday morning after being grilled for more than 48 hours over allegations that he and Mr. Roh were partners in property speculation.

Prosecutors suspect that Mr. Roh bought two luxury office buildings in Seoul under the names of two of the Dong Bang Group subsidiaries. Mr. Ahn said Friday Mr. Roh was also suspected of buying another building in the capital.

Mr. Roh has said he kept \$242 million when he left the presidential Blue House. Prosecutors were trying to find out whether the money was used for real estate speculation.

They are particularly interested to know how Mr. Roh's relatives were involved and whether they helped him syphon off money to secret bank accounts in Switzerland, Mr. Ahn said.

Meanwhile, the heads of six business conglomerates, including Hanjin and Hanwha were called in to the prosecutors' office Friday for questioning.

Since Sunday, the heads or founders of 24 leading conglomerates have been grilled at the prosecutor general's office over the fund scandal.

Carter to host Rwanda peace conference on Nov. 27

ATLANTA (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said an African peace conference on the crisis in Rwanda and Burundi will be held on Nov. 27 in Cairo.

Speaking to reporters at his Atlanta-based Carter Centre, the U.S. elder statesman said the meeting will involve the current government leaders of Rwanda and Burundi as well as heads of state from neighbouring Zaire, Uganda and Tanzania.

The objectives of the conference, which Mr. Carter said has the full support of U.S. President Bill Clinton and the United Nations, will be to find ways to quell ethnic violence in Burundi and set the stage for the return of an estimated 3.3 million Rwandan refugees now in Zaire and Tanzania.

"The presidents of Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire have acted as co-convenors and they've asked me to be the chief mediator and the Carter Centre to arrange this conference," he said.

He will be joined as mediator by former Mali President Amadou Toumani Touré. South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere also are being asked to participate.

A veteran of recent peace missions to Bosnia, Haiti, Korea and Sudan, Mr. Carter will visit the so-called Great Lakes region of central Africa this month on a separate mission with his wife, Rosalynn.

They are due to arrive in Rwanda on Nov. 19, in Burundi on Nov. 20 and at the refugee camps in Goma, Zaire, on Nov. 21. It will be Mr. Carter's fourth visit to Africa this year.

Carter said the region's ongoing crisis has been nearly forgotten by the American public. "U.S. intelligence and the National Security Council say that 100 people a day are dying in Burundi. The Swedes tell me that 300 people are dying every day in Burundi," he said.

Turkey urges Armenia to halt nuclear plant revival

ANKARA (R) — Ankara has urged Armenia to halt plans to revive a nuclear plant as doubts about its safety caused concern in neighbouring Turkey.

"We, as a country close enough to be directly affected by any accident at the station, whose security is debatable and which has been built in a region prone to earthquakes, urge Armenia not to revive the Metsamor-2 (reactor) in the light of existing risks," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The plant near the capital Yerevan began generating electricity again Sunday after lying idle following a 1988 earthquake that killed over 25,000 people.

The power station would gradually increase output as winter took hold in the Transcaucasian republic, an Armenian government spokesman said.

The plant was not damaged by the earthquake but it was closed due to worries about its safety. Yerevan, facing chronic electricity shortages, decreed in 1993 it would be reopened.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said it was negotiating with Armenian officials regarding its plans to revive the Metsamor reactor.

2 people die after ferry sinks in Gulf of Thailand

BANGKOK (AFP) — Two people died but 178 were plucked to safety Friday after a ferry filled with tourists heading for the Thai resort island of Koh Samui capsized and sank in the Gulf of Thailand, Marine Police said.

Two bodies were pulled out of the water during a rescue operation involving 180 people, capsized and sank in rough seas about seven nautical miles from the island resort under a torrential morning downpour, police said.

Police said they believed the incident had been an accident and that an investigation had already been launched. The captain of the ferry fled the scene soon after being rescued, they added.

A total of 130 foreign tourists were on board the ferry, they said, adding that it was unlikely there were any passengers missing. The rescue operations were called off late in the afternoon due to heavy rains, the police said.

One of the passengers on the ferry, Phillip Hawes, 32, an Australian environmental consultant, reached by telephone in Koh Samui, said the boat sank slowly, allowing ample time for passengers to clear the decks.

"Initially it looked as if people would panic, but when the life jackets were being handed out we waited until the boat went down and then we jumped clear," he said.

"I would be very surprised if there was anybody trapped on board," he said, adding that he was one of the lost to leave the ferry.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
 Jordan Press Foundation,
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6843111, 699634
 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
 Facsimile: 696183

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Enabling majority to win

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech to senior officers of the armed, security and intelligence forces on Thursday has raised many important questions which require adequate reflection and deliberation. Two primary developments obviously lay behind what the King had to say. One is the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week at the hands of an apparently organised Israeli extremist group nurtured on hate, extremism and fanaticism; and the other is related to the internal scene here in Jordan where a group of vociferous ultranationalists seems to have succeeded in dominating the debate over Jordan's relationship to its own citizens, mainly from Palestinian origin.

The King has rightly noted that the Israeli tolerance of Jewish fundamentalism and nationalistic fanaticism succeeded in nurturing a climate of hate that culminated in the killing of Mr. Rabin. One natural conclusion to be drawn from the Monarch's timely reminder about the need to respect certain red lines that should never be trespassed is the pressing desire to revitalise the so-called silent majority, something the King alluded to with force. Only through the activation of the majority would there be an opportunity to check the tyranny of the outspoken minority.

Yet this quest for a robust role for the majority is easier said than done. How to rally the people of this country on the side of national unity, peace, development and stability calls for hard work on the part of the government. Assuming that the opinions of the majority on key policy considerations can be easily identified, it remains to be seen how their views can be rallied to support principal policy guidelines, such as peace with Israel.

There are several options available to Jordanians to attain this objective. One way lies in broadening the base of the government. There are important sectors of the public that are not represented in the Cabinet. Another way is to rearticulate a new sense of citizenship based on contemporary criteria. We have many people who are unnecessarily alienated. In this vein, we would like to see the concerns of the King on what constitutes Jordanianism as reaffirmed in his latest speech translated into deeds forthwith. The Monarch had repeatedly drawn attention to this issue and even personally intervened to rectify wrong policies and practices on nationality rights. A minority of us immediately attacked the attempts to redress this problem and presumed that they have a birthright obligation to do so because their narrow perspectives and interests had been allowed to penetrate society without a counter effort to reach out to the population as a whole. Why all the calls for treating all Jordanians on equal terms have been left unimplemented is something that causes us deep concern. This kind of omission obviously erodes majority participation in shaping the future of the country.

This is not to mention the other dimensions of discrimination that still exist amongst our society without succeeding in triggering a concerted governmental reaction.

Of all concerns, however, the role of the mass media in healing or causing this malaise must be uppermost on our minds. If we take the example of Israel, it was the free-for-all situation which the Rabin government had allowed that ended up fanning and disseminating hate propaganda that culminated in the assassination of the prime minister. All democratic nations have laws governing hate propaganda. International law obligates all states to legislate against the spreading of hate reports. We are all for drawing a line that freedom of speech and expression must not be allowed to cross. Expressions of opinion calling for incitement to ethnic or religious conflicts are clearly unlawful under all systems of government worldwide. Still the media cannot do much better than the society it serves. If the majority of a people is silent on support for certain policy issues, the press will end up being silent as well. Only through deepening the democratic process would there be room for the majority to make their weight felt in the press or the decision-making process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i on Friday said there was no need for people to worry about schemes being drawn for the Middle East region. Fahd Al Fanek said the people of the region should have no fear since they have nothing to lose but backwardness, poverty, disunity and dictatorships. He said even the enemies of the Middle East cannot imagine a situation for this region worse than the current one. It is no secret that the economic and social conditions of the region, which was once called the Arab World, is the worst in the world, with the exception of the Black Africa region. "Our solace has always been that there is a region other than ours taking the last spot in terms of economic development, but our fear is that we are about to lose our unenviable place," said Dr. Fanek. He said the last spot for the Middle East was inevitable now after France pledged to offer generous assistance to the African nations, declaring that aid allocated through the European Union (EU) to Africa will even exceed that allotted by Germany and Britain in spite of the economic hardships it was facing. The writer quoted the French minister of overseas development as saying that economic growth in Africa was about five per cent annually and that they have surpluses in their trade balances.

Jordanian Perspective

Giving credit where it is due

By Dr. Musa Keilani

AS THE reverberations of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin continue to rock the Middle East, there is no definite parameter to judge the street reaction in Jordan to the murder of a man who largely symbolised the hope of many for peace in the region at large, with comprehensive solution to Israel's conflicts with its Arab neighbours.

But there is no denial of the fact that there is a sense of loss, albeit not necessarily on a personal level, among Jordanians regardless of their political beliefs. After all, for us in Jordan, the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel not only restored to us our full territorial and water rights, but also gave the entire region a strong impetus to economic development that should eventually reflect on our daily lives.

The sense of loss stems from the realisation that Mr. Rabin was not simply a military-officer-turned-politician who found it fitting his political ambitions to make peace with the Arabs. Let us not forget that the late Israeli leader's dedication to the course of peace with the Arabs was the precise reason that led to his assassination by a fellow Israeli and that Israeli settlers celebrated the death of their prime minister whom they saw as bringing about their eviction from their colonies in occupied Arab territory.

There is also a minority among us in Jordan that rejoiced over the death of Mr. Rabin, who, according to this minority's belief, had done unpardonable injustices to the Palestinians. Well, everyone is entitled to his or her free, independent opinion, but no one is free to impose his or her views on others, but it would be only fair and just to give credit where it is due.

A pragmatic view of the demise of Mr. Rabin will

make it clear that the death of the Israeli prime minister is indeed a loss to Jordan. But we have to raise above the clouds of the past to reach that judgement, supported by historical logic and a vision of the future.

It cannot be denied that Mr. Rabin had led his country to wars that saw Israel occupying Arab territory and depriving the Arabs and Palestinians of their rights. But are we going to hold that against him even in his grave, and overlook the fact that Mr. Rabin was the Israeli leader who accepted the inevitability of making peace with the Arabs and Palestinians on the basis of returning territory? Should we have been content to dealing with the likes of Yitzhak Shamir and Ariel Sharon in the Middle East peace process that was launched four years but showed no sign of getting anywhere until Mr. Rabin and his confidant, Shimon Peres, appeared on the Israeli political scene?

Are we in Jordan holding the "shortcomings" of the Oslo agreements between Israel and the Palestinians against Mr. Rabin while ignoring the fact that the agreements were independently concluded between the sole and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people and the Israeli government? Isn't it unjustifiable to expect Jordan, which regained its full rights from Israel, to continue to live in an atmosphere clouded by the decisions taken by others on their own fate and future?

We in Jordan paid a dear price for the fallout of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1947. Are we expected to continue to pay the price simply because Israel and another independent party, with no influence or pressure from our side, opted for their own course towards

eventual peace?

For the man on the Jordanian street, it should be a strong reminder that Mr. Rabin understood the complexities of not only making peace but also keeping it and building on it, and if the man's vision would come true it would mean an improvement of life on the Jordanian street.

It came as a surprise to many in Jordan to hear Mr. Rabin arguing Jordan's case for assistance to Europe and the United States before and after the signing of the Oct. 26 peace treaty. But then, it should not have been a surprise for those who really understood Mr. Rabin's approach to peace with Jordan and appreciated his belief that signing a peace treaty did not mean much unless accompanied by a qualitative change in the lives of the people. Granted that there is strong political motivation for Israel to ensure that peace means an uplifting of life for Jordanians if they were to be expected to cherish and maintain that peace? Does not negate the very approach adopted by Mr. Rabin?

Those who argue that the death of Mr. Rabin served the Arab cause do not seem to understand the philosophy of peace. For decades, we in Jordan were waiting for an Israeli leader with political vision to see that military might was not the answer to his country's "security" concerns and that the real answer was through accepting that Arab territory had to be returned and Arab rights had to be respected. And that leader came in the form of Mr. Rabin. It will be gross injustice to label Mr. Rabin a killer and completely side-step his achievements in terms of advancing the region towards the cherished dream of peace and stability.

M. KAHIL



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Enemies of peace should not be allowed to prevail

Reviewed by Ella Nasrallah

THE ARAB press last week discussed and analysed the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and its effects on the future of the peace process. The Arabic dailies also tackled a number of domestic affairs.

A writer in Al Ra'i daily said that with his death, Yitzhak Rabin has achieved the most significant political victory on the domestic level and the tragic event could signal the start of a genuine transformation in Israel's position, shifting it towards a just peace with the Arabs. Tareq Masarweh said that Israel could not have attracted so many of the world's leaders for the burial of its prime minister had it not displayed its determination to abandon the gains made through military occupation and its tendency to make peace with the Arabs. The Israeli society must have realised, the message that the leaders of the world came to Israel in order to reaffirm their support for peace and for Israel's determination to end the cycle of hostility and violence, said the writer. The late Israeli prime minister's policies, added the writer, showed the world that Israel has decided to give up military occupation and to become part of the new Middle East and to recognise the rights of the Palestinians in their Palestinian homeland. This tendency won Rabin this great support from world leaders because he had decided with great courage to free Israel from the historic ghetto and the illusion of military might.

Hamadeh Faraaneh, a writer in Al Dustour, criticised those who rejoiced over the killing of the Israeli Prime Minister, saying that these elements have practically showed their opposition to Israel's withdrawal from the Arab lands. It must be emphasised that Rabin was murdered because he had accepted the principle of negotiating with the representatives of the Palestinian people and because he recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and wanted to end the idea of greater Israel. Those who rejoiced over Rabin's death in Lebanon, Damascus or Amman have practically showed their opposition to Israel's withdrawal, for which Rabin has paid with his life, continued the writer. It is true that Rabin had ended the death of many, but his death should not be cause for dancing and rejoicing because this does not serve anyone's cause, he said. The writer said that those who are true to safeguarding the Arab Nation's interests are dealt with this event with a realistic approach and objectively.

A writer in Al Ra'i said the arming of the Jewish settlers under the pretext of helping them to use the weapons for self-defence was a wrong policy all along. Laila Al Hmoud said that the settlers have used the weapons to kill the defenceless Palestinians and these weapons have now been directed against the Israeli leaders. The assassin who killed Rabin for making peace with the Palestinians would have very much liked to use his weapon to kill Palestinians, continued the writer. She said that the weapons in the hands of the Jewish settlers could from now on be directed against Jews and could unleash a wave of violence unprecedented in the Jewish state's history.

Mousa Barhoumeh, a writer in Al Ra'i, blamed the extremist groups and fanatics for the killing of the Israeli premier, saying that the tragic event could mark the beginning of deep splits within the Israeli society. The writer said that the Israeli society should have woken up to the fact that terrorist groups were preparing for a disaster to the Jewish state when a Jewish settler gunned down scores of worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Saying that the killing of Rabin has opened wide the eyes of the Israeli society about the terrorist groups and their actions, the writer said the Israeli government should undertake drastic measures against the opponents of peace and should be ready to face the coming danger.

Sultan Al Hartab, a writer in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, said the Israeli National Authority as well as Jordan and Egypt to extend full support to Shimon Peres and help him to go ahead in the peace process. The writer said that these parties must help the acting premier to carry out Rabin's plans of giving back to the Palestinians their lands and their towns. According to the writer, Peres is bound to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor and could even take faster steps towards speeding up the Israeli forces withdrawal in implementation of the Taba agreement. Peres, said the writer, has a good chance to give an impetus to the peace process on all tracks and abort the hostile camp's attempts to disrupt the peace process.

Writing under the title of 'The enemies of peace under the spotlight', a writer in Al Ra'i said that the Israeli government ought to follow the advice of the politicians

in the Jewish state who have now called for disarming the settlers as a first step to stem the power of the peace opponents. Mubammad Rimawi said that there is even need for the government to embark on a policy of urging and later forcing the settlers to give up their settlements in the Arab lands and go back to Israel if the peace process is to take its course. The writer said the Israeli society should realise that the opponents of peace are terrorists who form a real waiting for a chance to terminate the peace process. These enemies, numbering around 100,000, are armed to the teeth and they are the real terrorists whose eviction from their settlements was demanded by wise Israelis in the wake of the cold blooded murder of Muslim worshippers in Hebron.

In the view of Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin dealt a real blow to the drive to attract investments to the Middle East. The writer said that concerned governments in the region and those which participated in the Amman economic summit are urged to double their efforts to show the world community that the peace process will continue unperturbed. He said the government of Shimon Peres should take speedy steps to implement the Taba agreement with the Palestinians and also take practical steps to revive the negotiations with the Syrians.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the ruling Labour Party in Israel should not waste any time but should rather try with all its might to utilise the assassination of Rabin to mobilise popular support for its policies.

The lesson of Algeria

By Gwynne Dyer

QUESTION: What should you do when you think that the people who are going to win a democratic election are not democrats?

Answer: Let them win. They might not hold another election when the scheduled time rolls around, which would then make them anti-democratic. If you cancel this one, you are already anti-democratic. And you may also be starting a civil war.

In January, 1992, the Algerian government cancelled the country's first-ever free elections because the Islamic fundamentalists looked certain to win, and practically every Western and Arab government tacitly backed its decision. Even then, it seemed a shortsighted and hypocritical policy. In retrospect, it looks like criminal stupidity.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi says the presidential vote on Nov. 16 will enable Algeria to find "a true democracy where you don't kill somebody who thinks differently than you." But the only candidates are President Lamine Zeroual (a former general) and three non-entities from government-approved parties.

All the real political forces in the country, including the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) that would have won the 1992 election, are boycotting the poll. And the armed Islamic groups that sprang up to oppose the regime after 1992 have promised to bomb the polling stations and kill people who try to vote.

There has already been a great deal of killing in Algeria, and since July the bombings have spread to France, where the Islamic militants accuse the French government of backing the military regime in Algeria. To a wonderful irony, President Zeroual then refused to speak to French President Jacques Chirac in a scheduled meeting in New York last month because he was unwilling to take "lessons in political behaviour" from France. (Mr. Chirac, to placate the French left, had announced that he would urge Mr. Zeroual to compromise with the Muslim militants.)

Damned if you do, and damned if you don't. You almost feel sorry for the French, coping with a terrorist bombing campaign to punish them for backing the Algerian regime, while its leader publicly snubs them. But your pity would be misplaced.

The truth is that the French government richly deserves to be punished for its role in Algeria. It is a shame that Faristan commoters are losing their legs or their lives in bomb attacks because of their

government's actions, but it is not surprising.

But Muslim fundamentalist movements are not inherently violent. Mostly, they turn to violence when the normal political avenues to power have all been blocked.

They were not violent in Algeria, despite 30 years of misrule and corruption by the heirs of the National Liberation Front (FLN) that won the war for independence from France in 1962. And there were good prospects for a smooth transition to a post-FLN democratic system, because the last FLN ruler, General Chadli Benjedid, had responded to bloody anti-government riots in 1988 by promising free elections.

And he delivered. The first round of voting in late 1991 went off very well — except that the FIS came out ahead. That was when the panic set in, for the fundamentalist party seemed certain to win an absolute majority in the second round.

So Mr. Chadli was forced to resign, and a clique of hardline generals seized power (after assuring themselves of the tacit support of France and other Western and Arab countries) and cancelled the elections. They are still in power today.

There was never any evidence that the FIS would have further elections if it won. In any case, servants of the old regime that had refused to risk free elections in Algeria for the previous three decades had no right to cast doubt on their opponents' motives. The whole thing stank of panic and prejudice — and the result was to pitch Algeria into a civil war that now rivals Sri Lanka for the title of the most lethal conflict on the planet.

Lots of reasons are offered for France's backing for the Algerian military. There are already some five million Muslim immigrants in France, over half of them Algerians, and Paris feared that a fundamentalist victory in the Algerian elections would unleash an unstoppable new wave of Algerians seeking shelter in France.

But if the FIS had come to power peacefully and legally, there would have been no refugees. Many members of the educated and secularised middle class in Algeria would have hated the petty restrictions the FIS would have imposed, but that doesn't mean they could claim refugee status.

Whereas if the fundamentalists win now or in the future, there will be up to a million refugees from Algeria with legitimate reason to fear their lives. After so much killing, there would be drastic retribution against those the fundamentalists see as enemies.

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Features



King: Democracy shouldn't become vehicle to destroy national unity

Following is the text of His Majesty King Hussein Thursday at the Royal Medical Services Centre to senior military, public security, and intelligence officers. The translation was provided by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

I thank the chief of staff for his welcoming speech on behalf of the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, the Arab Legion and all those you here represent. I hope you would convey to all your colleagues, the officers, the non commissioned officers and the privates my thanks, and that of Jordan, my gratitude, and that of Jordanians for all that you gave, through time, for being the shield of the homeland and its hope, the trustworthy to carry Jordan's message, the righteous soldiers defending the dignity of the Kingdom and its right to live and its stands under all circumstances and conditions, defending this country, the heir and bearer of the Great Arab Revolt this country which will remain dignified, God willing, by the awareness and loyalty of its men whom you represent at this meeting.

Gratitude goes to you, for all your efforts and sleepless nights that you spent preparing for the hosting of the Amman economic summit, the capital of agreement and reconciliation, which led effectively to the summit's success, making our country, Jordan, well known to all as a powerful and notable country aspiring for the future in confidence and in hope. This country which works in determination to be always and forever an example and a model.

Many of those who visited Jordan came to our country for the first time. It served as an opportunity for numerous meetings on different levels: officials, state and international organisations' representatives, and businessmen and private sector representatives who came from all over the world. During that time, a large number of media representatives came to Jordan to cover the major event from all over the world. Thank God, we only heard phrases of appreciation and admiration for the standards of preparation, and for the warm reception and hospitality they received, and also the great effort which was exerted to make Jordan known to all, and in turn providing the

chances to embark, in the foreseeable future, on the renaissance we aspire for nationally and regionally in the economic field, to start establishing the many fruitful ventures facilitating opportunities for our young people and our citizens to live a life they have been denied for a long time in the different circumstances, that prevailed in the past.

Thank God for what was achieved. We are full of trust and hope in a promising future, God willing.

Concerning the Armed Forces, it is our pride and joy. It is the hope. All its members represent the ultimate in awareness, loyalty and contribution to the aid of Jordan.

These days witnessed grave events that we all heard of and were affected by. It gave our minds room for revision of many stances, to look deeply into the reality that we live.

We must recognise, especially after the economic summit that many people showed admiration and appreciation for this country. Admiration for its contributions, its sincerity, its honesty and the integrity of its people.

There was no newspaper in this world that did not laud this country's achievements, no official or visitor who did not pay tribute to Jordan and its accomplishments, no one who did not feel that this country is far bigger than its size and its reality.

On the national level, however, this event did not receive the appropriate echo that promises of a hopeful future, self-confidence and appreciation of what was achieved and accomplished. This phenomena we have been suffering from for a long time. This country which gave and still is giving continuously deserves more from its writers, its media, its press and journalists, and its citizens.

On the people's level, I'm full of appreciation, gratitude, admiration, and confidence and peace of mind. The great majority of the people are with the country, believing in it, holding on to it and cherishing what it has achieved

and presented always, and being at the lead in doing so.

The masses expressed themselves on more than one occasion. I want to assure you and pledge before you my determination to continue serving those pure and honest citizens whose foreheads would remain high in dignity. This good men of the south, the north and the heartland, of the desert and in the green valley. Those good men from which our army comes from, which our armed forces are formulated: from the cities, the badias and all locations and posts.

I mean the silent majority in contrast to the few loud voices of bad omens, heralding havoc, destruction, despair, and frustration. These voices that live in darkness and illusion, and the forces driving them from behind and enforcing them. But the goodness remains in this country and in its people.

The recent event that occurred in our region, and I mean by it the fall of a soldier of peace who paid dearly for his belief in peace and for his quest to reach this peace and realise it. This event opened before us the many dimensions that needs to be thought thoroughly and which did not receive enough attention in the past.

One of our papers wrote "one less killer". I think as any honest man should, the killers are one more. The man who wrote this was not there when this soldier, serving his country, regardless of our position at that time, secured his biggest military achievements before shifting to the ranks of peace warriors to work for the cause of peace.

It was said then that it was fortunate that the killer came from a certain group of people and a certain nationality. But it is now time to say that all terrorists, regardless of their nationality, stance or ideology, are all the same, and of the same creed. They are the enemies of life, ethics, people and mankind, stability, security, and peace.

It was also said that what happened there (in Israel) was a result of democracy and freedom, and because people there enjoy rights that led to a situation that made someone do what he did with the support of a minority. At this point I

would stop commenting on what happened there to look into what happened here.

I would like to remind my brothers, my brother the prime minister who enjoys my trust and great hope, my brother the Crown Prince, my brothers the officers and the commanders here, that if these circumstances led to what happened there, we are living similar circumstances and emotions here.

Democracy does not mean, in any way, crossing the red lines, destroying national unity, destroying what is worth something, and underestimating the achievements of this country towards its persistent citizens, the real genuine men. I have said it before, maybe in this same hall, that I don't feel that there is a media, either on the official or the media in general, that belongs to this country defending it or its achievements, reflecting the colourful image of this country or heralding its bright reality. I only find a process of continued destruction and demolition from the inside

"There is the camp of darkness, death, havoc and destruction, and there is the camp of life, peace, security and stability. I belong to the latter camp."

in order for this country to fall, God willing, this country will not fall.

Rais have come out from their holes. Observers of what happened in the recent past should have noticed what I have said carefully. I'm not Muammar Qadhafi and Jordan is not Libya. Jordan does not deal with its people like Qadhafi deals with his Palestinian brothers and folks who are guests in his country. We do not do that because we are all citizens in this country, citizens in solidarity and unity. We called for the reform of some shortcomings which we realised existed such as denying some Jordanians their citizenship which they deserve due to their long belonging to this country. Some of them were treated in an inappropriate way. I have said it before that anyone who seeks to harm or hinder the national unity of this country in anyway is my enemy. I don't know if any of my brothers here read the cheap newspapers. They

criticising and some are giving speeches. Some are abusing pulpits and platforms assigned for preaching wisely for what is righteous, and what is good.

Some are criticising what we have done in accordance with what our duty tells us to do towards those who cooperated with us in realising peace, and with whom we entered a clear and candid dialogue to regain our land and our water on the bases of the stand we adopted since 1967.

This continued till our Palestinian brothers decided to act by themselves to gain their self determination concerning their own affairs and in accordance with their circumstances. This stance, which did not accept to compromise an inch of Palestine's rights on any of its people's rights on their national soil.

When the issue was out of our hand in accordance with the wishes of our Palestinian brothers, the Arabs, the Muslims, and the whole world, and when

all those who set forth before us, and those who commanded and sacrificed on the path of peace, and when we all moved towards peace after a decision that was adopted here by those who represent our people in all its spectra, and those who were elected in their posts, in a huge national gathering, and after our brothers (the Palestinians) moved out from under the umbrella to face the sunlight — after all of this had happened, we marched to save our land, our water, our right, and the right of this country to live.

As you all remember at the beginning, there was talk of signing peace then discussing details. We refused and he (Yitzhak Rabin) accepted our view point. Then there was the long road and the great efforts of everyone until a just and honourable peace was reached. Our rights were restored and we are now on the threshold of moving to a prosperous future. God willing. There was a relation that was established, a friendship, and the enemy was turned into a dear friend with God's will. Then the man fell, and we recognised all the man's deeds as he did ours. I must say that he admired this army and this country, its heroism and its manhood in every meeting with him and all of his companions. Now there are some who blame us for paying our last respects for him or for having shaken his hand.

A vice president of an Arab country sent a letter to my brother Sharif Zeid saying that he was my friend but it is not honourable for him to shake the hand that shook Rabin's hand. We are not honoured to shake their hands because they only seek their interest, believe in nothing but themselves, and work only for themselves. Because they are too cowardly to shoulder their responsibilities, and to work in the service of this nation's future to save this Arab people anywhere from what they suffer.

When it comes to the threshold of the new era of our life of building and giving, I hope that the government, with all of our support, and trust would succeed in its tasks in the coming future. All of my thanks go to the government in preparing for the summit

and making it a success, for the continuous care of my brother Hassan, and for the efforts in the economic field of this country.

But, as an advice from a big brother, I call upon the silent majority to have its say in all of this foolishness. To stand in the face of the powers of darkness, to reflect the genuine image of this country and its people, resembling that manifestation when I was destined to recover from a dangerous disease.

And when I came back there was a manifestation that I would never forget and would always serve as my motive as long as I live to work for the best of this people and its future through giving opportunities to all the men and women of Jordan in a promising future. Let me say it honestly and clearly: Do not destroy in the name of democracy. Don't abuse tolerance to destroy this democracy.

We all aim in this country that everyone would rise to the occasion where Jordanians would achieve their aspirations and ambitions, to shoulder their responsibility and to face the challenges and dangers. Don't meet the good of this country with ingratitude. Don't be mean and remember what this country has given you and has accomplished for you. This country, regardless of anything, is powerful and capable of putting any one who wants to harm it in his place.

This country's method is tolerance, and even now I'm hopeful that people would go back to the straight path. This could be their last chance to reconsider. There is the camp of darkness, death, havoc and destruction, and there is the camp of life, peace, security and stability. I belong to the latter camp in all my energies and capabilities in fulfillment of my duty towards the future generations. Ask my brothers at the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the constitution, or any body, or any of those who took decisions through dialogue and through what should have been done on the official or public levels and their representatives to judge in two fields. The first is this press and this bad and defaming media. The press and media of this country should portray this country and the true feelings of its men and women

in order to be fair towards this country concerning the hizzare and the strange that exist in the press.

It seems that our hopes were bigger than our realities when we eliminated all limits, and made the severest punishment for any wrongdoer or defamer to this country a mere JD 1,000 if convicted. Controls and curbs should be put. Reconsidering of punishment against those harming ethics and morals should be applied. This is not the standard we wanted, nor it is the quality we wished our press would enjoy in the era of democracy, freedom and respect for human rights in this country.

Concerning the unions and the sheikhs of our association we ask: Do they represent the thousands of this country's young men? Do they serve the professions they claim they represent? Should this incorrect situation continue? Where is the line between politics and profession? Why not leave politics to politicians and those who are chosen by the people to represent them in their respected councils? Do these few who are not appreciative have the right to forbid engineers or doctors for example from participating in the forthcoming renaissance? Is this democracy of dictatorship?

These conditions make it imperative to speak openly and clearly to our brothers and sons and people. I call upon all to pay attention to all that is going on. Cooperate on what is righteous, not on what is evil. Let us build this country and serve this nation. "Let's fulfill its aspirations and hopes as possible as can be. As for me I was only a child when the founder of this Kingdom Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, my grandfather, fell as he was at peace with himself in an extraordinary way. He went to meet his Lord a martyr. When my hour comes, I hope it would be like that of Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein."

We don't fear anyone's blame in what is right. We don't fear any one's blame in what is right. Destiny is up to God. I would always be, to the last moment of my life, there for you, from you and with you to satisfy my conscience and work for Allah's will whom I look forward to meet with my book in my right. God bless you all.

Parliament pledges action

(Continued from page 1)

"which was planted by the King in the soil of this country and in the minds of its citizens, is an irrevocable choice and is a means by the people to monitor, question and correct so as to make Jordan stronger."

It said the progress of the democratisation process requires continuous review in order to address defects and check excesses so as to protect democracy from any attempt to violate the Constitution.

"Experience has proved that the choice of our leader to open the door for resuming the democratic march was right since our country and the region passed through difficult tests such as the Gulf war, the peace process and the economic reform programme and Jordan emerged from these crises stronger and firmer," read the statement.

"As we stressed our keenness to proceed firmly in the democratisation process and to protect political pluralism, human rights and public freedoms, we would like to make a distinction between the dignity of the state, the rule of law, security and stability on the one hand and attempts to exploit democracy ... to spread chaos and plant dissent and despair among the people on the other."

The statement criticised what it termed as misinterpretation of the climate of freedom provided by the Press and Publications Law by some newspapers, adding that there were transgressions against Jordan's achievements and symbolic figures. It deplored infringement upon people's privacy, focus on crimes and corruption by the press as distortion of Jordan's image and said the Kingdom's security and stability were threatened by all persons with fair judgement.

The statement stressed the importance of national unity, describing it as the secret of the Kingdom's strength.

The statement continued that all holders of Jordanian nationality were Jordanian citizens with equal rights and duties regardless of their origins. "Shedding suspicions over that fact is a violation of the Constitution and is a behaviour amounting to the level of outlawed sedition," it asserted.

It added that no one had the right to revoke the nationality of another person or express mistrust of the others' allegiances and feelings of belonging and said such behaviour was a violation of human rights principles and is in contravention of the simplest religious, national and constitutional codes.

The statement underlined the importance of supporting both Jordanian and Palestinian national identities until the Palestinian entity is created and until citizens can make a voluntary choice in determining the kind of relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian entities.

It stressed that the government's measures to grant West Bankers Jordanian passports had no political implications, but were administrative measures aiming at helping Palestinians as had always been the case. "Jordan has persistently sought to enable our Palestinian brethren to secure their legitimate national identity and rights and did its utmost to bury the substitute homeland illusion and stop evicting Palestinians from their homeland," said the statement.

It said professional associations and unions were necessary national institutions which have certain goals and duties set by their bye-laws which should not be violated, adding that political work is

the right of all citizens as guaranteed by the Constitution.

The Constitution, it continued, is the ultimate reference which determines the suitable political platforms.

"As the House stresses the Kingdom's national achievements and the prominent international status attained by the kingdom, it declares that it will work on correcting all that needs to be addressed in the field of legislation to ensure having more responsible democratic practices and social justice and to ensure security and stability in response for the leader's call and the nation's needs," the statement said.

"Those propagating sedition, despair, misery, regionalism, intellectual terrorism and mobilising against religious, national and constitutional values and principles will be dealt with by law and by the Jordanian judiciary, which is known for its distinguished integrity."

Also on Friday, deputies, political activists and parties expressed their support for King Hussein's speech. Abdullah Ensour, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House, said the King had reiterated his calls for maintaining national unity and warned of dangers posed by excesses on the part of some people who claim to be advocates for the right, at a time when they were working for their own interests.

Mr Ensour said that such excesses had nothing to do with democracy but were some forms of terrorism and brutality.

Mr. Ensour said the King's speech was timely because it came at a time when the country had started shaping its own future clearly.

On the role of professional associations, Mr. Ensour said that the associations had played a good role in the absence of parliamentary life

and political parties, but now that parliament and political parties were in place, such associations should not play any political role, nor impose their political opinions on their members.

He called on the associations to observe the law governing their activities, saying that the law should not be violated nor abused.

Kamel Abu Jaber, member of the Upper House of Parliament and former foreign minister, said King Hussein had called for an in-house solution to some of the excesses in accordance with the rules in force. He noted that the King called on the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution to reconsider some of these rules.

Dr. Abu Jaber stressed the need to respect democracy and to observe democratic rules and regulations. Democracy has never been taken to mean non-observance of laws or infringing upon general freedoms or causing harm to any individual or group, he said. "In my view, the King's speech was a reminder to the nation of the noble meanings of democracy, and a call for observing democratic rules and respecting the counter opinion," Dr. Abu Jaber said. He added that throughout its history Jordan had never allowed anyone to be killed for political reasons nor had it

allowed political violence against any individual.

The Al Ahd Party expressed support for the King's speech and called for finding the legal and constitutional solutions to protect Jordan's democratic march and ensure respect of democratic values, in addition to stopping all excesses, and aborting all attempts to distort Jordan's image and its achievements.

The Arab Islamic Democratic Movement (Dua'a) voiced support for the King's speech and appreciation to him for charting the way for the Jordanians to follow.

Dua'a said Jordan will remain a strategic reserve for its Arab Nation. Jordan has set an example for the region in terms of respect for democracy and human rights, the statement said. Any attempt to belittle or undermine Jordan's role is not but a conspiracy against this country, it added.

The Liberal Party said King Hussein had put the record straight by clearly warning of the dangers posed by the excesses on the part of those who try to offend Jordan's values and beliefs. The party called on the government to take the necessary measures to deter those who might think of tampering with the security of the country or undermining its role and achievements.

Peres and Arafat may meet

(Continued from page 1)

building. Israel turned over the police station to Palestinian police earlier this month. A total of 1,000 Palestinian policemen were scheduled to deploy in Jenin and the surrounding district starting on Monday.

Palestinian security sources said some 500 Palestinian policemen, who had been trained over the past few months in self-ruled Jericho, were already in Jenin as civil

lians. They were to go on active duty starting on Monday along with some 400 policemen due to arrive from Jericho. The rest were to arrive later.

Meanwhile, a huge campaign urging Palestinians to register to vote in their first elections was launched Friday in the Gaza Strip.

About 50,000 posters were being distributed across the Gaza Strip, depicting a ballot-box and the Palestinian flag with the inscription

"Together, we will build our country."

The Gaza coordinator of the Palestinian central election committee, Osama Abu Safir, told AFP that from Sunday 2,000 Gaza teachers would begin a door-to-door canvas of the population.

They would be armed with the first maps of electoral wards in the Gaza Strip, where one million Palestinians live.

They would be wearing special green caps inscribed with the words "The Palestinian National Authority central committee for elections."

Rifkind reaffirms support

(Continued from page 1)

main in force for "many years."

Mr. Rifkind, visiting Jordan on a Middle East tour, said a ban on all Iraqi exports, including oil, and all imports except food and medicine was part of a "containment policy" needed to protect Baghdad's neighbours.

He said an end to sanctions was "entirely dependent on the compliance of the Iraqi regime with U.N. resolutions, for as long as they refuse to comply with U.N. requirements it will be necessary to continue sanctions."

"Sadly it could mean for many years," he told reporters. "We hope that would not be necessary, but it depends on the behaviour of the government in Baghdad."

The U.N. Security Council on Wednesday extended sanctions imposed on Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Mr. Rifkind said there was strong agreement in talks on Thursday with King Hussein "that sadly Iraq, Saddam Hussein's regime in particular, continues to represent a threat to the peace of the region."

He said Iraq's admission after the defection of a senior

official to Jordan in August that it had been developing biological weapons ruled out an early end to sanctions.

"Against that background, I believe it is inconceivable that sanctions at this moment in time could be lifted by the United Nations," he said.

The emir of Kuwait said his country would support any joint Arab initiative to help relieve the suffering of the embargo-hit Iraqi people, in an interview published Friday.

"Kuwait approves of any collective Arab initiative to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people," Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah told the Egyptian government daily Al Ahran.

"The Kuwaiti contribution to this humanitarian initiative would be in the form of food and medical aid rather than money which the Iraqi regime could use to buy new weapons and threaten the people of Kuwait," the emir said.

Kuwait's crown prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, told Al Ahran newspaper in a separate interview that Kuwait had not "turned its back" on Arab countries that supported Baghdad in its invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

But he added: "It is up to these countries to adopt a policy stressing that the Iraqi regime must implement all U.N. Security Council resolutions," especially regarding the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war.

The crown prince said Kuwait was not putting up obstacles to Arab reconciliation but that "all Kuwaitis need to check that these countries are adopting a new, credible position."

Sheikh Saad also judged as premature a call by the United Arab Emirates for the lifting of sanctions and for Arab countries to mend fences with Iraq.

On his talks in Damascus, Mr. Rifkind said Syria stressed its support for the peace process, adding that it thinks that the latest statements made by Israeli officials were encouraging and constructive.

This, he said, provides a suitable ground for resumption of serious negotiations between Israel and Syria. Officials, he said that much emphasis was put on the need to pursue the peace process and that the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should not affect the peace process.

Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip can next week start to apply for identity cards to be issued by the self-rule authority, the PLO said.

Saeb Erakat, the self-rule minister of municipal affairs, said the decision on ID cards was taken at a meeting in Jericho with Israeli defence and foreign ministry officials.

To be eligible for cards, Palestinians aged 40 and above must have lived at least three years in the territories, and younger Palestinians have at least four years of residency.

Australian Grand Prix

Hakkinen condition stable after crash

ADELAIDE (R) — Mika Hakkinen was in stable condition in hospital with a serious head injury on Friday afternoon after he crashed heavily in his McLaren during the opening qualifying for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

A statement from the medical staff treating the 27-year-old Finn after his estimated 175 kph (108 mph) collision at Malthouse bend said he was in the intensive care unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, under sedation and ventilation.

The statement, from the FIA medical delegate Sid Watkins and Dr. Brendon Kearney, the chief executive of the hospital, said this treatment was normal for the management of head injuries.

It added: "While the neurological situation will be unpredictable for the next few days, progress so far is satisfactory."

"Scans and X-ray investigations show no evidence of other serious injuries. There are no external head or facial injuries."

The announcement followed news from Goodyear, which supplies all tyres used by all the teams in Formula One, that three left-rear tyres inspected by them had been found out during the session.

The cars were driven by Pedro Lamy of Portugal, in a Minardi, Briton Johnny Herbert in a Benetton, and Hakkinen.

Goodyear officials said the cuts may have been caused by debris, kerbs or manhole cov-

ers on the 3.78-km (2.35-mile) tricky, fast and slippery Adelaide street circuit.

Hakkinen lost control of his McLaren on entry to the high-speed corner. His car slid backwards, hit a kerb and then pirouetted through nearly 360 degrees before slamming into the barriers.

The corner, a fast right-hand bend between the Jones and Brabham straights, is the quickest on the track. It is believed that Hakkinen was travelling at about 175 kph when he hit the barriers, protected by only one wall of tyres.

The session was halted for 42 minutes. When it resumed, Briton Damon Hill in a Williams grabbed provisional pole position ahead of his teammate and fellow-

Briton David Coulthard, Austrian Gerhard Berger in a Ferrari and newly-crowned double world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany in his Benetton.

Coulthard led the times for most of the session but Hill eclipsed his best time in the final two minutes. Hill's time was one minute and 15.505 seconds, at an average 180.226 kph (111.99 mph).

Hakkinen's accident was the worst in the sport this year. Japan's Ukyo Katayama escaped with only slight injuries after his Tyrrell cartwheeled over at the start of the Portuguese Grand Prix in September and Japan's Aguri Suzuki suffered a fractured rib in practice for the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka last month.

Briton Johnny Herbert, driving a Benetton, also spun off during the session. Briton Mark Blundell in the second McLaren also came off at the same place as Hakkinen.

Austrian Gerhard Berger, speaking off Hakkinen's crash, said: "It looked as if he had a problem with the left rear of his car. The right front seemed to be off the ground at the start of his accident and he took off when he hit the kerb."

"It looked as if something may have failed or a puncture of something."

Coulthard, qualifying in Adelaide for the first time, said: "It's a very tricky circuit. It is much more bumpy than I expected. It is a street circuit and that always means that if you have an off, you are in trouble."

Seles withdraws from season finale

NEW YORK (R) — The season-ending WTA Tour championships next week will feature a rematch of last year's final in the opening round after fifth seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina drew Amanda Lindsay Davenport as her first opponent on Thursday.

Sabatini ended a lengthy title drought last November by beating Davenport in straight sets to claim the prestigious Virginia Slims Championships crown for the second time.

The draw for the re-named season finale was held at the Advanta Championships in Philadelphia — final tune-up for the 16-year event at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Three-time winner Monica Seles, who was to make her return to the championships after missing the last two years, pulled out earlier on Thursday, suffering from tendonitis in her left knee and an ankle sprain.

Seles, who rejoined the women's tour in August after more than two years away following her 1993 stabbing in Hamburg, was to receive a special wild card invitation into the draw.

Her absence enables the legitimate 16th place qualifier, according to WTA points standings, to claim the final berth.

That final qualifier, who will be top seed Steffi Graf's first-round opponent, will be South African Amanda Coetzer unless Irina Spilrea of Romania reaches the Philadelphia final. She has already advanced to the quarters.

Coetzer is one of only two players to beat world number one Graf this year. The German three-time champion avenged that Canadian Open defeat with a first-round victory over Coetzer en route to her U.S. Open title in September.

Spain's Conchita Martinez, bumped up to second seed with Seles's withdrawal, drew Croatian teenager Iva Majoli as her first opponent.

Third-seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, losing finalist to Graf in 1993, landed in the tougher half of the draw along with Graf and Sabatini. She will face Natasha Zvereva of Belarus in the first round.

Fourth-seeded Australian Open champion Mary Pierce of France, a semifinalist the past two years, drew a dangerous first-round opponent in German Anke Huber.

The other first round pairings are: Sixth seed Kimiko Date of Japan v Czech veteran Jana Novotna seventh seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria v Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands and eighth seed Mary Joe Fernandez v fellow American Chanda Rubin, who will be making her first appearance in the championships.

WBC meet issues safety guidelines

BANGKOK (R) — The World Boxing Council has introduced new safety measures and doubled the insurance cover for boxers appearing on a WBC world title card, a news release said.

The WBC's annual convention under way in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai on Thursday addressed key medical and safety issues following recent deaths in the ring, according to a release seen here on Friday.

"The WBC's medical investigation strongly suggests that extreme weight loss during training for a fight and the accompanying dehydration are prime factors in ring fatalities."

"The WBC has decided that strict guidelines for limiting the amount of weight a fighter will be allowed to lose will be drawn and implemented," it said, adding that these would be monitored in all world, interna-

tional and Americas title bouts.

The WBC said another prime factor in fatal accidents was the presence of a family member, particularly fathers, in a boxer's corner as "it appears that the emotional ties involved adversely affect their judgement as cornermen."

The convention, gathering around 300 members from around the world, confirmed its 15-year-old rule that bars immediate relatives from working in the corners. But it said they could take part from the floor as fourth cornermen.

The council directors also decided on Thursday that the \$100,000 medical and life insurance policy provided for every boxer appearing on a WBC world title card would be increased to \$200,000, effective immediately.

The statement said "a new and much more effective mouthpiece" had been under

development by the WBC for the past five years.

It did not elaborate but the Nation newspaper quoted WBC chief Jose Sautman as saying the guard had cost more than \$100,000 to develop and was made of a rubber material that offered better protection and lasted one year against three months for others.

The daily newspaper also reported that the WBC had set up an ad hoc committee to look after the families of fighters who had died in the ring as well as former champions who have fallen on hard times and need help with medical and other bills.

The 31-member directors board had also on Thursday agreed that WBC heavyweight champion Frank Bruno of Britain should make his first mandatory title defence against Mike Tyson instead of fellow Briton Lennox Lewis.

Sacchi takes Italy into big week

BARI, Italy (R) — The next week will determine whether Arrigo Sacchi, marking his fourth year as Italy coach, takes his team to the 1996 European Championship finals or looks for another job.

On paper the odds look overwhelmingly in favour of Sacchi staying at the helm for some time. But Italy still need at least four points from their last two matches to be mathematically home and dry on Wednesday night.

Croatia lead group four by three points over Italy but the "Azzurri" have one game in hand and can finish top of the

group if they beat Ukraine in Bari on Saturday and overcome Lithuania in Reggio Emilia on Wednesday.

Finishing second in the group leaves three times world champions Italy a hostage to arithmetic.

Sacchi, ever cautious despite celebrating his fourth anniversary as coach on Monday, has warned his players neither opponent is the pushover many might suppose.

"With six points we can win the group, with four we should qualify. One defeat and we're out," he said.

"So I'm calling for prudence and concentration because Ukraine and Lithuania do not belong to the third tier of teams, those that you beat even playing badly."

"They are in the second tier, that of less well known teams who are capable of causing an upset."

Sacchi said Ukraine, home of Dynamo Kiev, were sure to be tougher opponents than international novices Lithuania.

"They look a bit wooden but they are evolving. If they try and attack it will be a good game," he said.

A knee injury to Juventus midfielder Angelo Di Livio has forced the coach to change his initial line-up.

Greece to ask for 2008 Games with no contest

ATHENS (AFP) — Greece is to ask the International Olympic Committee to award Athens the 2008 Games without going through the bidding procedure.

Greek Sports Minister George Lianis told AFP on Thursday that Athens deserved the Games because of its historical contribution to the Olympic movement.

A similar plea fell on deaf ears in 1989 in Tokyo when the IOC awarded the U.S. city of Atlanta the centenary Games of 1996.

However, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu told IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch on Thursday that Greece would enter the normal bidding procedure if its request for the 2008 Games to be awarded to the city outright was turned down by the IOC Executive Board at its meeting in Nagano, Japan, in December.

Athens lost a bitter campaign for the 1996 Games to Atlanta and did not bid for the 2000 Games, won by Sydney which squeezed out Beijing by only two votes.

China has not yet decided about the 2004 Games and Olympic sources believe it may decide to wait and bid for 2008.

Cape Town is the favourite to become the first African venue for the Olympics in 2004.

Krajicek's 25 aces are to no avail

STOCKHOLM (R) — Dürchman Richard Krajicek's 25 aces were all to avail as he was beaten 7-6, 2-6, 6-3 by unseeded Swede Mikael Tillström in the second round of the Stockholm Open on Thursday.

Tillström, whose career has been marred by injuries, countered the third-seeded Krajicek's power with a stream of classy lobs, returns and passing shots.

Top seed Jim Courier scored a clinical 6-4, 6-3 win over Australian Todd Woodbridge while second seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden routed Romania's Andrei Pavel 6-1, 6-3.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Inter sign Branco and Caio

MILAN (R) — Internazionale stole the spotlight as Italy's autumn transfer market closed on Thursday, signing striker Marco Branco from Roma after recruiting another forward, Caio, from Brazilian club Sao Paulo. But despite reports that the buys would be funded by the sale of Paul Ince, there was no indication the unsettled England midfielder's departure was imminent. Inter said they had signed Branco, who played for Parma last season, a two-year contract. The terms were not disclosed but the deal included Italy under-21 striker Marco Delvecchio moving to Roma on loan for a season. Earlier in the day Inter recruited 20-year-old Caio Ribeiro Dedocossau. No further details were available but the daily Gazzetta dello Sport quoted a sum of \$4.6 million for the deal. In other moves, Swedish international Klas Inngesson joined Italian club Bari from English premier league side Sheffield Wednesday in a \$900,000 (\$1.42 million) deal.

Sri Lanka's top sprinter banned

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lanka's top sprinter has been banned from next month's South Asian Federation Games in India for allegedly using performance-enhancing drugs, an official said Friday. The Asian Amateur Athletic Association ordered Sri Lanka not to field Susanthika Jayasinghe, who was heavily favoured to win the 100 metres and 200 metres sprints, said association secretary Rohan Amarasinghe. The International Amateur Athletic Federation, the sport's world governing body, will meet next month in Monaco to discuss banning Jayasinghe from the sport. She is the first Sri Lankan sports person to have used a banned substance, he said.

Beijing to host World Cup swimming

BEIJING (AFP) — China will once again host a World Cup Swimming tournament next year, after having hastily pulled out of it last year following a major doping scandal surrounding Chinese swimmers. The Beijing event, one leg of an eight-part short distance swimming world tour, will take place on January 10 and 11 at the complex where the 1990 Asian Games events were staged. China Daily said Friday. China will be fielding its top swimmers at the event, providing them with "valuable experience at this important pre-Olympic warm-up," the daily said. China had staged the event in 1993 and 1994 but opted out of it in 1995 just weeks after 11 athletes, including seven swimmers tested positive for doping during the Hiroshima Asian Games.

Mancini will stay with Genoa club

GENOA (AP) — After threatening to leave Italian soccer following an animated on-field altercation, national team forward Roberto Mancini has agreed to stay with first-division club Sampdoria for the remainder of the season. "It's the best solution. I have strong ties with the club," the 30-year-old Mancini said in an interview with the Italian television network Rai broadcast Thursday. Mancini was in England Thursday with Sampdoria to play exhibition matches against Arsenal and Middlesbrough. Arsenal, which signed English national team captain David Platt from Sampdoria in the off-season, was said to be bidding for Mancini, who has been playing with the Genoaese team since 1992.

Stoichkov donates \$100,000

SOFIA (AP) — Bulgarian national team forward Hristo Stoichkov, who plays for Parma of Italy, has donated \$100,000 to his country's capital city of Sofia, according to news reports. Stoichkov made the donation late at a fund-raising cocktail party, organised by Ventsislav Yossifov, a banker who is running as an independent for mayor with the support of the governing socialists. The fund is aimed at helping develop Sofia and will be at the disposal of the next mayor. Yossifov pledged according to the daily 24 Chassa.

Samaranch rules out Beijing

ATHENS (AFP) — International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch has all but ruled out Beijing bidding to hold the 2004 Games. "The news we are getting for now is that they are not very optimistic," said Samaranch here Thursday. "I think in the end there will only be 10 candidates," he added. With Beijing out of the running Cape Town becomes strong favourite to win the 2004 Games and become the first African city to hold the Olympics. Bidding against them are Rome, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Istanbul, Seville, Lille, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and San Juan. Cities have until Jan. 10 to confirm their bids.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A YAMANI HERSCH
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BREAK THOSE "RULES"

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
A R Q J 5
O 8 2
O 8 4
K 8 4 2

WEST
A 8
O 2
O 8 2
A Q J 10 7 5 3

EAST
A 7 6 5 3
O 8 4
O Q J 10 9 8
A Void

SOUTH
A 10 4
O A K Q J 10 7 5
O 8 7 2
A 8

The bidding:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 A 1 A Pass 4 O
2 A DM Pass 5 O
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of A

Start trumping partner's aces

and you'll become the laughing

stock of your club. Yet there's no

disputing that, once in a blue

moon, it will be the right thing to

do. Consider this hand.

After a competitive auction South

became declarer at five hearts.

Although five clubs doubled would

have been set two tricks there's no

entry to the East hand to take a

diamond finesse. South cannot be

seriously criticised for refusing to

sell out to five clubs doubled.

Indeed, we would hazard a guess

that the contract would be made

with an overtrick more often than

not.

Suppose West were to lead the

ace of clubs (best). Most defenders

would signal negatively in some

way, then expect to ruff away dum-

my's king of clubs. Unfortunately

declarer would overruff, draw

trumps and claim the rest of the

tricks.

If East takes note of the bidding

and dummy, the correct defense

becomes easy to spot. West has

no high cards in spades, and probably

come in hearts, and in missing the

king of clubs as well. Therefore, it is

more than likely that West has an

eight-card suit for the vulnerable

bid of five clubs.

If South has the ace of diamonds,

there's no hope for the defense. The

first stage in the winning defense is

to ruff partner's ace of clubs. Is

West void in spades? Even if West

gets a spade ruff, that won't set the

game. The best shot is to try for two

diamond tricks, so East must shift

to the queen of diamonds. Doves

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- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has applied for a grant from the Ozone projects trust funds of the Montreal protocol parties (the International Bank for Construction and Development acting as trustee of grant funds) in various currencies towards the cost of Ozone depleting substance phase - out project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this grant will be applied to eligible payments for producing odourless liquefied petroleum gas.
- The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of disk mounted liquefied petroleum gas purification and hydrotreating unit of 5 gallon/minuta capacity according to standard specifications No. 582/1/95 revision 1.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain the bidding documents against a nonrefundable amount of JD 30 at the offices of...
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd
Purchasing Department.
1st Circle, Jabel Amman, Abu Baker El Siddiqi Str.
P. O. BOX 1079 - Amman - Jordan
Fax No. 962-6-557939
962-957934
Tlx. No. 21246 & 21638 Petrol Jo.
Tel. No.: 630151-59
- All bids must be accompanied by a security of 5% of the bid amount valid for four (4) months from date of opening the bids and must be delivered to the above offices on or before 17/12/95. Bid security shall be released to unsuccessful tenderers upon completion of offers evaluation.
- Bids will be opened on 18/12/95 at the offices of Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd - Purchasing Department.
- The bids should be valid for a period of three (3) months from the date of opening the bids.

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PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		MUSA HIJAZIN		"Sumaa"	
Delan Walsh & Lora Leeni...in		Mahmoud Yassiri, Hussein Fahum & Rania Yassiri...in		Sylvester Stallone...in		Hi Citizen		daily at 8:30 p.m.	
CONGO		Hazelnut's Shell (Arabic)		ASSASSINS		Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh		In view of the travel of the actors abroad the theatre is closed until further notice	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30					

China on track for Atlanta

BEIJING (AFP) — With a tougher anti-drug programme in place and renewed performances from its swimmers and runners, China appears to be back on track for next year's Atlanta Olympics.

China's Olympic campaign was launched at the Inter-City Games in Nanjing at the end of October, a multi-sport competition that brought together 3,300 athletes from 49 teams.

The Chinese hoped the Games would help erase the memory of the mediocre results achieved by Chinese athletes in 1995, which were blemished by positive dope tests, and help it present a clean image in Atlanta.

China's image has been badly tarnished by drug scandals, particularly the 11 athletes, including seven world-class swimmers, who failed tests at last year's Asian Games in Japan.

In August, the National People's Congress unanimously adopted a law that ordered additional testing during and outside competition and provided tougher punishments for failed tests.

China carried out more than 300 random tests for the first time at the Inter-City Games. Tests had previously only been carried out on winners. Results will be available at the end of November.

Sports authorities also announced in Nanjing that all members of a team would be banned for a year if two individual team members tested positive.

The ban would be extended to 1997 if four athletes from the same club were caught using

banned drugs.

Swimming and athletics were the particular targets of the new policies.

Chinese female swimmers shone at the 1994 World Championships, winning 12 of 16 titles and setting five world records, but the positive tests at the Asian Games threw the sport into turmoil.

Only a few Chinese swimmers were allowed to compete abroad in 1995, leaving uncertainties about China's Olympic prospects.

But the respectable times turned in by Chinese female swimmers at the Inter-City Games brought back memories of the world championships.

"After a year of silence, China can finally see light again," said national team director Lin Senlin.

That opinion was shared by women's coach Chen Yunpeng, who said world champions Li Jingyi, He Chong, Liu Limin and China's other top female swimmers will show up in Atlanta ready to perform.

Chinese athletics also underwent a resurrection in Nanjing after a mediocre 1995 season, including a disastrous showing at last summer's world championships.

Wang Junxia, world-record holder in the 3,000 and 10,000 metres, reconciled with her former coach, Ma Junren, who will train his talented band of runners on the high plateaus of Yunnan province this winter.

Ma also launched a new group of young and talented runners in Nanjing, including Jiang Bo who beat Wang in the 5,000 metres.

Rosset advances to Moscow quarters

MOSCOW (AP) — Marc Rosset, bidding for his third Kremlin Cup title in four years, breezed into the quarterfinals Thursday with a 6-4, 6-3 win over unseeded Jan Krosiak.

The 2.01-metre (6-foot-7) Swiss player used his big serve and power game to dispose of the Slovak easily. Ranked 11th in the world and the No. 3 seed in the \$1.125 million ATP tournament, Rosset faces a clear path to Sunday's final as the only remaining seed in his half of the draw.

Rosset showed no ill effects of a late night at a Moscow discotheque two nights earlier. He said he stayed out until 2 a.m. after his first-round victory Tuesday to celebrate his 26th birthday with Russian star Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the tournament's top seed.

The Swiss will not face Scott Draper, a fast-rising young Australian who defeated Karol Kucera of Slovakia, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3).

In another second-round match, Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan, who stunned No. 2 seed Goran Ivanisevic in the opening round, was eliminated by Carl Uwe Steeb of Germany, 6-2, 6-7 (7-4), 6-3.

Andrei Olhovskiy, Kafelnikov's Davis Cup doubles partner, outlasted Marc Goellner of Germany, 6-4, 6-7 (10-8), 7-6 (7-5).

The tournament is being played in Moscow's indoor Olympic stadium, site of the Davis Cup final between Russia and the United States.

Agassi pulls out of ATP Tour World Championship

PONTE VERA BEACH, Florida (R) — Andre Agassi, recently deposed as the world's top-ranked tennis player, has pulled out of the season-ending ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt with an injury. ATP officials announced on Thursday.

Agassi is suffering from a pectoral muscle strain he sustained during the Davis Cup semifinals against Sweden in Las Vegas in September.

He reinjured the chest muscle in a tournament in Essen, Germany and withdrew from the Paris Open two weeks ago in an attempt to heal on time for next week's season finale.

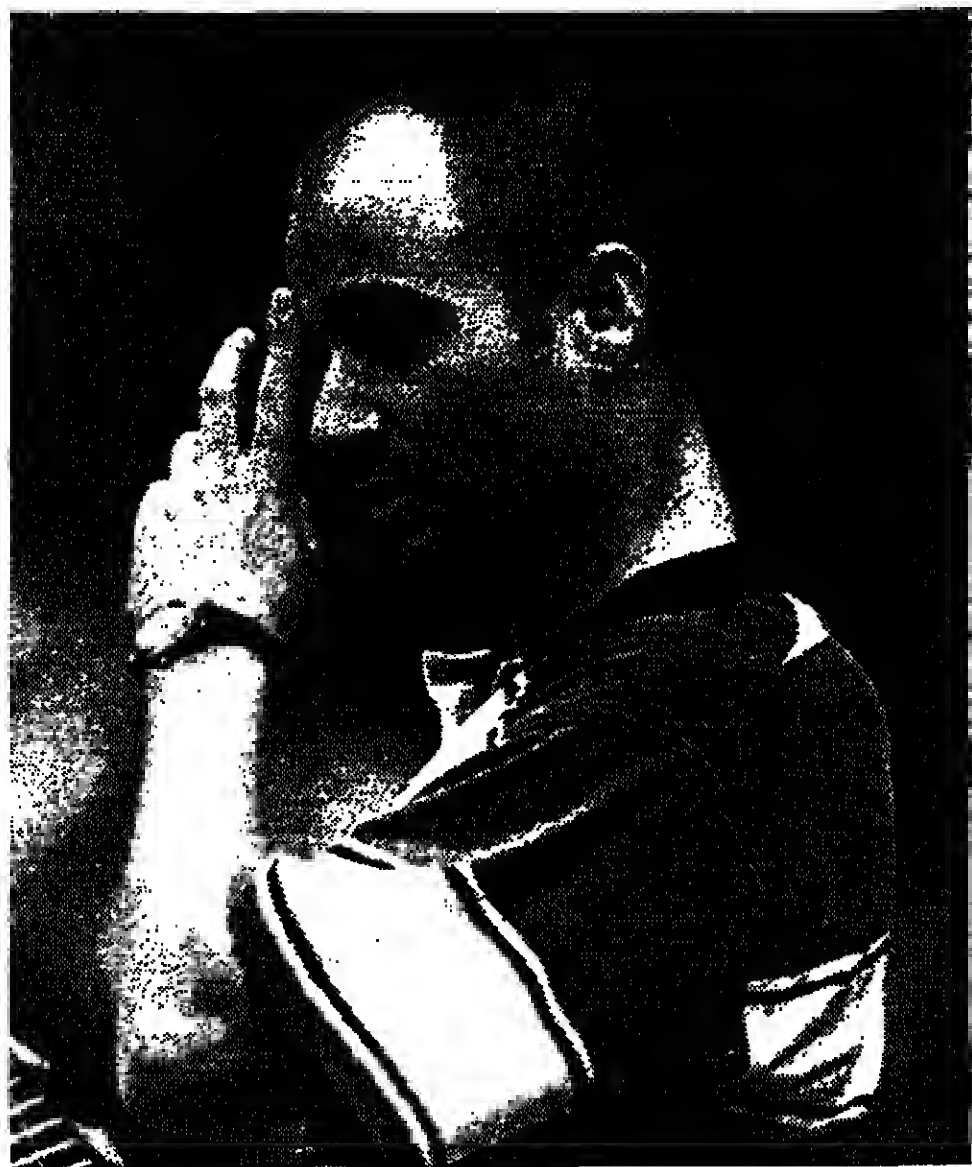
He informed ATP Tour officials Thursday that he would be unable to compete.

"There has not been ample time for my recovery," Agassi said in a statement released by the ATP Tour.

The withdrawal of the second-ranked Agassi shatters the excitement of a three-way race with current number one Pete Sampras and third-ranked Austrian Thomas Muster to end 1995 as world number one.

"I'm obviously very disappointed as one of my goals was to finish the year at number one," said Agassi, the Australian Open champion.

Agassi took over the top ranking from Sampras on April 10 and held it until the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion reclaimed it Monday after winning a title in Bercy, France.



Andre Agassi

Graf on track with Philadelphia win

PHILADELPHIA (R) — After surviving a close call in her opening match, top seed Steffi Graf appears to have regained her form with an easy quarter-final victory over unseeded American Meredith McGrath at the Advanta Championships on Thursday.

The world number one needed less than an hour to breeze to a 6-3, 6-2 win that put her into Saturday's semifinals.

The German star, who has

claimed three Grand Slam titles this year despite struggling through injuries and personal problems, never faced a break point against McGrath, who had upset eight seed Chanda Rubin in the second round.

"It was a very different match than the other day," said Graf, who pulled out a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 second-round win over American Amy Frazier Tuesday after a first-round bye.

"I've really had a long break this year while every one else has been playing," said Graf, who came to Philadelphia having played just one match since her U.S. Open victory in early September.

"I'm used to having a lot of preparation for a tournament. I'm not used to long breaks," she continued. "I need to feel in shape and ready. I've been missing that all year long."

Just another testy night with replacement NBA refs

NEW YORK (R) — It was just another night with minor-league referees in a major-league game — frustrating, testy, but no worse than many another this young NBA season.

"We need to get our refs back," said the Indiana Pacers' well-travelled veteran Eddie Johnson, at 36 the oldest player on the court in Thursday's game with the New York Knicks.

"Everybody's arguing every call. That doesn't happen with the regular referees." After all the shouting was over, the injury-depleted Pacers said their 103-95 loss to the Knicks was not the fault of the replacement referees, but they weren't happy about the situation.

The National Basketball Association locked out the union refs in a dispute over pay levels as they try to negotiate a new contract.

"It's frustrating to have officials coming off of super-market jobs and refereeing our games," said Indiana sharpshooter Reggie Miller.

The first play of the game set the tone. New York centre Patrick Ewing was bumped while shooting but got no foul, then was called out of bounds while hopping in to retrieve the loose ball.

Ewing gave a disbelieving stare at the ref, then dropped the ball not quite to him.

Plenty more such incidents followed.

Players from both sides — especially such notable talkers as John Starks and Anthony Mason of the Knicks and Miller of the Pacers — took turns explaining to the refs, with varying degrees of heat, how the game should be officiated. The Indiana bench was also up and

screaming frequently.

There was plenty to critique. A three-second violation became a foul and then a three-second violation again. In the final minute, both referees had to admit they did not see an "out-of-bounds" play.

The biggest blowup was Indiana coach Larry Brown's.

With just under five minutes left in the game, Brown, on the court and arguing furiously over a foul call, received two technical fouls and was ejected.

He refused to leave, and referee Drakeford appeared to be losing his temper, too.

"The referee was a little perturbed with the situation," Johnson said dryly.

Brown was dragged away from the ref and off the court. "We made sure Larry didn't touch him," Indiana assistant coach Gar Heard said.

Brown then produced the basketball and took a long hook shot from out of bounds that for a moment looked like it might go in. Who knows, these refs might have counted it.

"Well, the book shot humoured me," said Knicks coach Don Nelson. "I once got ejected and drop-kicked a ball into the second balcony, so I know the feeling. The hook shot did me one better, he almost made it. I had to

chuckle oo that one." Compounding the problem is that only two referees are being used, not the normal three.

"If they had three of them it would be better," said Johnson. "Even with our own referees, two is tough."

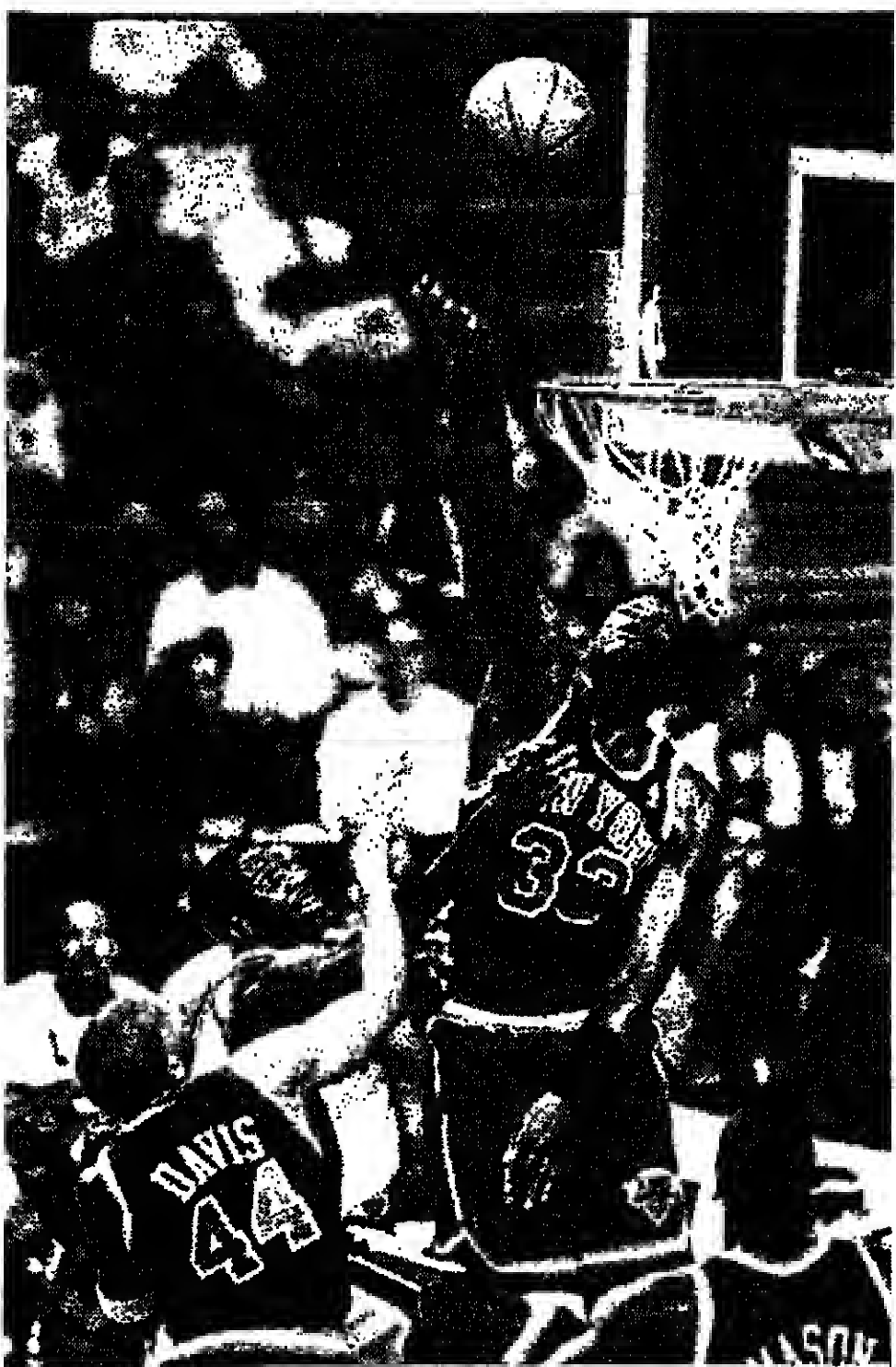
If the Pacers would not blame their loss on the replacement refs, the turning point in the Knicks' only loss this season, to the visiting Phoenix Suns Tuesday, was when Mason was ejected by officials struggling to maintain respect and control.

Thursday's game saw no outright fighting, but other games have seen some ugly incidents, and Johnson says the NBA had better reach a settlement with the union refs soon.

"I think the league ought to look at how frustrated everybody's getting," said Johnson. "An explosion is going to happen."

"We need the real refs," said Pacers point guard Mark Jackson. "There were bad calls, sometimes they didn't even know what to call. It's hurting the game and I don't know if the best team will win each night."

But Miller took a more philosophical slant, noting that at least it is early in the season when there's less at stake. "Both teams have to put up with this," said Miller. "It's going on all over the league and it's better to get it over with in November."



Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks blocks a shot by an opponent as the Knicks Hubert Davis (left) looks on (Reuters photo)

NBA RESULTS

Chicago	106	Cleveland	88
New York	103	Indiana	95
Dallas	104	Milwaukee	94
Atlanta	125	Golden State	121

Nomo is NL Rookie of the Year

NEW YORK (R) — Japanese pitching sensation Hideo Nomo of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who led the National League in strikeouts, won the 1995 National League Rookie of the Year Award on Thursday.

Nomo, who joined the Dodgers this season after starring for five years in the Japanese League, received 18 first place votes and 118 total points in balloting by a 28-member panel of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones finished second in the voting, collecting the other 10 first place votes and 104 points. Nomo also had nine second place votes and one third place vote and Jones received 18 second place votes.

Nomo, who started the All-Star game for the National League and became a sensation back home for his stellar play in the United States, is the fourth consecutive member of the Dodgers to be named N.L. Rookie of the Year. He follows Eric Karros (1992), Mike Piazza (1993) and Raul Mondesi (1994). The Dodgers also had four consecutive winners from 1979 through 1980 when Rick Sutcliffe, Steve Howe, Fernando Valenzuela and Steve Sax earned top rookie honours.

Nomo's selection gives the Dodgers 15 Rookie of the Year awards — more than twice any other club — since Jackie Robinson of Brooklyn won the first one in 1947.

The performance of the 26-year-old Nomo was one of big stories of the 1995 season as he confounded Major League batters with his unorthodox pitching style.

Nomo posted a 13-6 record with a league-best 236 strikeouts and an earned run average of 2.54 — second best in the league.

The right-hander also surrendered just 124 hits in 191 innings for a league-best .182 opponents batting average.

There had been some debate as to whether Nomo should be considered for the rookie honour after five years of playing professionally with Kintetsu of the Japanese League. But he was deemed eligible under the rules of the award.

Jones, who was a key figure in Atlanta's World Series victory, was eligible because he missed the entire 1994 season with major knee surgery. Jones batted .265 with 23 home runs and 86 RBI this season.

Florida Marlins second baseman Quilvio Veras, who batted .261 and led the league in stolen bases with 56, received one second place vote and 11 third place votes to finish a distant third in the balloting with 14 points.

New York Mets pitcher Jason Isringhausen, St. Louis first baseman-outfielder John Mabry and Montreal pitcher Carlos Perez tied for fourth with four points each.

Minnesota Twins outfielder Marty Cordova narrowly edged California Angels outfielder Garret Anderson Wednesday for the 1995 American League Rookie of the Year award.

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Arafat visits Rabin home in Tel Aviv to pay his respects

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat, a figure still distrusted by most Israelis, has paid a first visit to the heart of Israel as Palestinian leader to convey his condolences to slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's widow.

On Friday, Arafat woke up to find Mr. Rabin's funeral on the front page of newspapers alongside Leah Rabin, drinking coffee against a background of flowers.

The Palestinian leader, restricted to watching Mr. Rabin's funeral on Television, hailed his late peace partner as "a courageous man" after being ferried in by helicopter Thursday night for his first visit to the Jewish state since 1967.

"The guy is sitting without the keffiyeh, the symbol of struggle," noted government spokesman Uri Dromi. "He's a just a regular guy without too much hair on his head, paying condolences."

"In Israel, nobody can remain indifferent to that," he told AFP.

"I think Israelis will take this visit as a most human gesture... the whole event reminded us we are all human beings... although even Yitzhak Rabin had mixed feelings about Arafat."

The veteran Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader informed reporters on his return to the Gaza Strip that he flew in to Israel aboard a helicopter to speak with the widow in her home near Tel Aviv.

It was his first visit to the Jewish state since 1967, when he slipped secretly into Israel to organise cells for his Fatah faction.

"It is our duty, because you know during the funeral I hadn't the ability to participate for security matters," Mr. Arafat said after returning to Gaza.

Israeli officials had asked Mr. Arafat to stay away from Mr. Rabin's funeral in Jerusalem on Monday, saying they feared for his safety.

An aide said Mr. Arafat spent 90 minutes in the Rabin home.

"I told Mrs. Rabin that we have lost a courageous man, with whom we concluded the peace of the brave. He was our partner," Mr. Arafat said.

A source close to Leah Rabin said she had told Mr. Arafat her husband had considered him "a real partner on whom we could count for the continuation of the peace process."

Despite the watershed PLO-Israeli agreement on Palestinian autonomy signed in 1993, Mr. Arafat has never been invited to Israel. The Palestinian National Authority he heads was represented at Mr. Rabin's funeral by four ministers.

Mr. Arafat was accompanied to Ramat Aviv by Ahmad Qouries, his economy minister, and Mahmoud Abbas of the PLO Executive Committee.

The visit was arranged in Israel by Yossi Guinossar, a former official in the country's domestic intelligence agency Shin Bet, according to Israeli radio.

The trip was shrouded in secrecy and took place under heavy security. It was only revealed to the press once it had been successfully carried out.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (left), on his first visit to Israel as leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, pays a condolence visit to Leah Rabin, widow of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv late Thursday. In the centre is Yossi Guinossar, a former official of the Israeli security service, Shin Bet, who arranged the visit (AFP photo)

Support for Netanyahu drops after Rabin death

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The popularity of Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu has taken a nose-dive in the polls after the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish fanatic, a survey showed Friday.

But Likud was swift to dismiss the poll, saying it was a sympathy vote for the ruling Labour Party following the loss of their leader, and support would pick up in the coming months.

According to the poll published in the Yediot Aharanot newspaper, 54 per cent would vote for acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres of the ruling Labour Party against 23 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu.

Previously Mr. Rabin and Mr. Netanyahu had been running neck-and-neck.

Israelis are to elect their prime minister for the first time in next November's general elections, and Mr. Peres has so far avoided going to the country early following the assassination.

Despite the setback for Mr. Netanyahu, the poll by the independent Modim Institute showed Labour would still fall short of a parliamentary majority if elections were held now.

It would win only 60 out of 120 seats, with Likud and the

far-right gaining 38, the religious groups 15, and the centre-left seven.

It was the first such poll since Mr. Rabin's assassination at a Tel Aviv peace rally last Saturday, and showed Mr. Netanyahu's support had fallen in the polls by 18 per cent compared with a similar survey by the same institute in August.

But leading Likud member Eliahu Ben Elissar told AFP:

"The poll was carried out only two days after the murder. It is natural that it would show more votes going to Labour, obviously at the expense of the main opposition party."

He said he did not think the assassination would have a long-term effect on Likud's chances at the polls.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that things will again be judged according to their merit."

"This is some kind of sympathy towards Rabin's party, and is quite natural."

The left has accused the right, notably Mr. Netanyahu, of inciting murder with his violent attacks on Mr. Rabin's peace policies.

Mr. Rabin's widow Leah bitterly accused Mr. Netanyahu of feeding the climate of hate which led to her husband's death.

Jordanian sues U.S. over blast detention

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said on Thursday it is suing the U.S. government for \$1.9 million on behalf of an American citizen of Jordanian descent who was wrongly detained as a suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing.

Immediately after the deadly April 19 bombing of the federal building, which claimed 168 lives, federal investigators focused on suspects of Middle Eastern origin.

Those early suspicions proved wrong and two Americans — Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols — have been charged with the attack.

But on the day of the bombing, federal officials detained Ibrahim Ahmad, a 32-year-old computer technician, who was scheduled to fly from Oklahoma City to Chicago and Rome before visiting relatives in Jordan.

In Chicago, Mr. Ahmad, a U.S. citizen and resident of Oklahoma City for 13 years, was questioned by federal officials before he was allowed to leave the United States. In London, after officials searched his luggage and found electronic devices including a video recorder and stereo equipment, he was again questioned, handcuffed and escorted back to the United States.

Authorities at the time said Mr. Ahmad was cooperating with the investigation and willingly returned to clear his name.

Federal officials questioned him again in Virginia and Oklahoma City, the ACLU noted.

"My detention and mistreatment by federal authorities in Chicago, London, Virginia and Oklahoma City did not just humiliate me, but traumatised my family, and the entire Arab and Muslim-American community as well," Mr. Ahmad said on Thursday at a news conference outside Oklahoma City's federal courthouse.

Mr. Rummelhardt also renewed appeals to French citizens residing in Algeria to return to France if possible and told its citizens residing elsewhere to stay away from Algeria.

Officials later said privately they intended the latter warning for French journalists contemplating travelling to Algeria to cover the Nov. 16 presidential elections, saying their safety could not be assured.

The ministry said the French ambassador in Algeria would promptly open an investigation to try to determine who was responsible for the attack on the two nuns.

The nuns belonged to the Order of the Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

The order was founded early this century by Charles Eugene de Foucauld, a former army officer who became a missionary and was himself assassinated by Algerian rebels in his Sahara desert retreat near Tamanrasset in 1916.

The nun's killing took to 30 the number of French nationals murdered in Algeria by suspected Muslim fundamentalists since the cancellation of 1992 elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The French foreign ministry said it was "deeply shocked and stunned by this indescribable and barbarous act" and condemned those responsible.

"We note that the security of French people in Algeria is the responsibility of the Algerian authorities," spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt told reporters at a ministry briefing.

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Family squabble behind bomb hoax on RJ flight

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner made an emergency landing on Thursday at Iceland's Keflavik airport after receiving a bomb threat and proceeded to Chicago after a search found no bomb aboard the plane.

The Lockheed Tristar was en route from Amsterdam to Chicago with 324 passengers on board when the bomb hoax was made. More than 200 rescue workers were at Keflavik airport when the plane landed at 18.25 GMT.

The passengers were evacuated immediately and taken to the airport terminal. Bomb disposal experts searched the plane, but no suspicious objects were found.

Asked to comment on the incident, RJ's Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Public Relations Munib Touqan said the investigation found that an American woman of Jordanian origin who wanted to delay the arrival of her mother-in-law in Chicago gave the false information.

The woman who gave her name and phone number said that her mother-in-law was carrying a bomb. Mr. Touqan said. Subsequently the woman apologised to the U.S. police, saying that she ignored international laws on aviation and added that she did not think that the false information would be taken seriously.

She also said that she did not know the extent of suffering and financial losses incurred as a result of the false information. Mr. Touqan said.

In a telephone interview, one of the passengers, Munir Fakhouri, said significant number of the passengers were children and that no one was hurt during the emergency landing at Keflavik. Mr. Fakhouri praised the Icelandic authorities for the good treatment they offered to the passengers at Keflavik airport.

International news agencies Thursday said the Icelandic authorities detained one man and two women for questioning.

Jordan in touch with Iraq and Israel over detainees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is holding talks with Iraq and Israel to secure the release of Jordanians in Iraqi and Israeli jails, an official source said Friday.

The source told the Jordan Times that the government "expects to conclude discussions with Israel on this issue very soon."

Reports from Israel say that around 40 Jordanians are being detained in Israel after they infiltrated the borders with the West Bank in the last decade.

The official source said that Iraq recently provided Jordan with a list of 57 prisoners jailed in the notorious Abu Ghariy prison.

"We believe that 21 were released in the last pardon" decreed by President Saddam

Hussein in the summer.

The source said, however, that the Ministry of Interior estimates that "over 700 Jordanians are in Iraqi jails."

"This (number) is not a signal of worsening relations (with Iraq)," the source said. "The Iraqis have never cooperated in giving information on prisoners" in Iraqi jails.

A recent report in the Al Rai daily quoted the Nazareth-based Friends of the Prisoner Society as saying that 40 Jordanians were held in two Israeli jails in "very bad and harsh conditions."

The society said most of the Jordanian prisoners were held at Ashkelon prison and the rest at Atelet and that they are not allowed to mix with Palestinian inmates.

Dane renews NATO bid after Lubbers quits race

PARIS (AFP) — Former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen is to visit Paris Monday, for talks which could be crucial in the race for NATO chief as the only other candidate, ex-Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers, has withdrawn.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, whose visit was scheduled before Mr. Lubbers announced Friday that he was pulling out, is expected to press his candidacy for NATO secretary-general with French leaders who until now have clearly opposed him.

Until Friday, Mr. Lubbers was the clear favourite for the job. His withdrawal due to U.S. opposition leaves Ellemann-Jensen as the most serious alternative.

Paris has until now made it clear it opposes the Dane's candidacy for three reasons: in particular it believes the

new NATO head should come from a member of the Western European Union, which Denmark does not.

It has also stressed the need for whoever takes over the alliance to have fluent French, which Mr. Ellemann-Jensen does not. Paris is also believed to be infuriated by Denmark's high-profile campaign to French nuclear tests.

Foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt confirmed Friday that Mr. Ellemann-Jensen will hold talks with Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette on Monday.

He said the Dane "had asked to be received," adding: "It is courteous to receive him." "Speaking shortly before the announcement in the Hague of Mr. Lubbers' withdrawal, he said the Dutchman appeared to be "a very good candidate."

Arab-Americans lobby Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton told a private meeting of Arab Americans he is interested in getting humanitarian aid to Iraqi civilians if it would not help the government of Saddam Hussein.

Another condition would be that private humanitarian aid to shortage-plagued Iraq not undermine compliance with U.N. Security Council embargo resolutions, said James Zogby, reporting on an hour-long White House meeting late Thursday.

Dr. Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, said in an interview a score of prominent Arab Americans raised their concerns with Mr. Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore and administration aides. The delegation included Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, Mayor Lee Namey, broadcaster Casey Kasem and former Representative Mary Rose O'Leary of Ohio.

The White House talks highlighted a three-day leadership conference that Dr. Zogby said marks a milestone in the growth of Arab-American political influence and empowerment promoted by the non-profit, bipartisan institute he founded 10 years ago.

The White House did not comment on Thursday's meeting, which appeared on Mr. Clinton's public appointment schedule, except to describe it as private.

During the meeting Mr. Clinton also reaffirmed his commitment to implementation of the peace process and its timetable for Israeli troop withdrawals, Dr. Zogby said.

The delegation voiced concern to Mr. Clinton about investor uncertainty generated by the possibility that Israel at some point might again close access to the West Bank, he added.

Dr. Zogby quoted Mr. Clinton as being willing "to take another look" at ending the ban on U.S. travel to Lebanon, where many Arab Americans families originated.

On U.S. domestic issues, Mr. Clinton shared the delegation's concern that welfare reform not penalise "defenceless groups" such as legal immigrants, Dr. Zogby said. The president also heard delegates criticise negative stereotypes and rhetoric occasionally levelled against Arab Americans, Dr. Zogby said.

During the day, Mr. Gore, Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Democratic National Committee Chair Don Fowler and 20 members of Congress of both parties addressed or greeted more than 100 delegates attending the conference from across the United States.

Pat Buchanan, a candidate

Croatia troops reportedly move to Eastern Slavonia

ZAGREB (AFP) — Some 350 elite Croatian troops have advanced to the edge of a buffer zone in eastern Slavonia separating them from secessionist Serb forces, stepping up pressure on the last Serb-held area in the country, a U.N. source said Friday.

"It's a small build-up, not very large in size," said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said the soldiers are part of the Croatian army's Zagreb-based "Tiger Brigade" and had brought in heavy artillery and pontoon bridges. Two rivers cut through Eastern Slavonia which was captured by the Serbs in 1991.

"It's a message to the Serbs to put pressure on them," he said.

Earlier, another U.N. source reported a buildup of troops in recent days in Vinkovci and Nustar on the edge of the Serb-held areas.

The source said the movement did not constitute an offensive and that no fighting had been detected.

A spokesman for the Croatian Defence Ministry did not confirm the troop movement but said the Croatian army had the right to deploy "where it wants. Croatia is a free country."

U.N. spokesman Douglas Coffman, stationed at Erdut in the Serb-held sector, said no troop movement was reported Friday.

"There is always some level of tension but it's relatively quiet or calm," he said.

Egyptian militants claim another attack on train

CAIRO (AFP) — The main Egyptian militant group Gamaa Al Islamiyah claimed on Friday a second attack against a train in southern Egypt, which injured three persons, including two tourists.

"A day after the Luxor operation, the mujahideen have made a second attack against a train carrying tourists... injuring at least two European tourists," according to a statement received by a Western news agency in Cairo.

On Wednesday, the Gamaa said it ambushed a train travelling Tuesday from Luxor to Cairo, wounding 11 Egyptians, and described it as a "tourist target." It was the first such operation since April.

In the second attack on a train in the same region, which occurred on Wednesday, two foreign tourists — a French woman and a Dutch

man — along with an Egyptian were lightly wounded by flying glass.

Gamaa threatened on Thursday to kill foreign tourists as it claimed the first attack on a train in six months.

Even as police announced new security measures to protect tourists, the attacks sent a shudder through the tourist industry, which was looking forward to a bumper season after three years of miserable business caused by militant violence.

In the typed statement, titled "Tourists, leave Egypt," the Gamaa reaffirmed Friday its call for all holidaymakers "to leave the country to save their souls."

These attacks "prove the failure of the criminal operations led by the Egyptian regime against the mujahideen (fighters) in favour of the creation of Islamic state in Egypt."

Arsenal at home shocks Rabin assassin's mother

TEL AVIV (R) — The weeping mother of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin said on Thursday she and her husband were shocked and when police discovered enough explosives in their attic to blow the house sky-high.

"Shlomo and I stood there stunned, simply in shock. When I went upstairs... I asked (police) 'what are those bars in soap?' when they explained it to me, it took me perhaps an hour or two to digest what he left up there," Geula Amir said.

Police said they seized enough weapons and explosives in confessed assassin Yigal Amir's family home in

the north Tel Aviv suburb of Herzliya "to make any terror group proud."

His parents gave an interview to Israel Television in which Mrs. Amir said that "only God knows" why her son ignored the religious family's teachings of tolerance and murdered Mr. Rabin on Saturday at a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

Husband Shlomo Amir, a Bible scribe, said he asked police searching their home what damage the explosives found under its re-tiled roof had caused.

"If there had been any sort of fire, the entire house could have been blown sky-high," he said they answered.

Chilean soprano suspected of murder, attempting suicide

BERLIN (AP) — Chilean soprano Gabriela Lehmann, found wandering the streets with slashed wrists after allegedly stabbing to death her landlady last month, remains unable to submit to interrogation, a diplomat said. Ms. Lehmann, 39, was studying German on a fellowship at the Goethe Institute and had rented a room several months ago from Elisabeth Werner, 51. According to newspaper reports, the two had bitter disputes lately.

Ms. Werner, a social worker, was found dead in her apartment in west Berlin's Tempelhof district on the night of Oct. 25 after colleagues reported she had not come to work. Police immediately began searching for Ms. Lehmann and gave her picture to the news media. Passersby found the Chilean, whose credits include performances at the National Theatre in Santiago, in the early morning hours of Oct. 26 in a neighbouring district. She was disoriented, had no identification and had deep cuts on her wrists. Ms. Lehmann was taken to a hospital, where staff recognised her from newspaper photographs and called police. "It is assumed, from the condition the woman was found in, that she was the murderer," said Ruediger Reiff, a Berlin Justice Ministry spokesman. He said he did not have details on how Ms. Werner was killed, other than that she was stabbed to death. A judge ordered Ms. Lehmann held on suspicion of murder on Oct. 27 and she has been confined since Nov. 3 to a psychiatric hospital, he said.

Anabolic steroid abuse may lead to cancer — doctors

LONDON (R) — Abuse of anabolic steroids by body-builders may lead to cancer of the kidney, a group of British doctors said Friday. In an article in the medical journal, The Lancet, the doctors from Stockholm and Blackpool in northern England cited the cases of two 26-year-old body-builders whom they had found to be suffering from the ailment. They said that renal carcinomas are unusual in people under 30. The common factor in the two cases was that both men had taken steroids — one for six years, the other for 20 months.

"Bodybuilders take anabolic steroids in doses many times those required for therapeutic androgen (male sex hormone) replacement, leading to cyclical changes in the hormonal milieu," the doctors wrote. "Our cases suggest a direct cancer-inducing effect of anabolic steroid abuse on the kidney," they said. In a statement, The Lancet commented: "Bodybuilders are already known to suffer from heart disease and impotence when they take steroids now, it seems they may be at risk from cancer too."

Grave news for overseas Chinese

BEIJING (AFP) — The increasing number of overseas Chinese choosing to be buried in their homeland has forced the government here to limit the construction of luxury cemeteries in order to preserve valuable arable land. The Ministry of Civil Affairs has ordered local authorities to tighten control over new fee-paying public cemeteries on the outskirts of cities, especially luxury burial grounds, which boast large mausoleums, and are built with overseas funds, the China Daily said Friday.

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